Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية بالتراخيص

PNA security agent escapes from Israeli prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An imprisoned agent of the Palestinian security forces escaped from Israeli custody during a visit by his family, police said on Friday. Anwar Awad, a bodyguard of Palestinian Preventative Security chief Jebril Rajoub, was allowed a visit by his family in the courtyard of Jerusalem police station. Afterwards he was found to have disappeared, police said. Awad was sentenced last year to 40 months in prison for seizing an Arab merchant in east Jerusalem and taking him to the Palestinian self-rule area of Ramallah in the West Bank for questioning. One of his brothers, Jamal Awad, denied that the family had a role in helping his escape, saying they only learned of his escape when police came to their Jerusalem home asking about him.

Omanis elect candidates for parliament, two women

MUSCAT (AP) — Two women are among the 164 candidates elected in Oman's indirect parliamentary polls, officials announced Friday. The candidates' names will be forwarded to Sultan Qaboos, who will choose half of them to sit in the Gulf state's 82-member parliament. Thursday's elections were only the second time that women have run for seats in the Majlis Al Shura, an Islamic-style council that has no formal powers but advises Sultan Qaboos on laws and policy. In the last parliament, two women won seats for the capital Muscat. There were 10 female candidates. On Thursday, there were 27 women among the 736 candidates. Officials said that about 15 per cent of those who voted were women — an increase from two per cent in 1995.

Volume 22 Number 6664 AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1997, JUMADA II 16, 1418 Price: Jordan 200 fils

EC releases $44 million in aid to Kingdom's economic reform plan

By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Commission (EC) last week announced that it released ECU 40 million ($44 million) to Jordan in what officials described as part of the European Union's (EU) continuos support for the Kingdom's economic reform programme, launched in 1989.

The amount, aimed at supporting the Kingdom's balance of payment, is part of a European grant of ECU 100 million ($110 million) pledged to Jordan last year. A tranche of ECU 60 million ($66 million) was released October 96.

The delay of the release of the second tranche was due to Jordan's non-compliance with some conditions imposed by the EU, and later met by the Kingdom, head of the EC delegation in Jordan, Yves Gazzo told the Jordan Times on Thursday.

"These conditions were met by Jordan, such as the amendments to the investment law, the competition law, and (government's cuts) on expenditure," Mr. Gazzo added.

The financial package also aims to alleviate the external and fiscal pressures on the Kingdom's economy, and pave the way for a fruitful association agreement between Jordan and the EU, which was initialled last April and is scheduled to be signed next month.

The EU's aid package is also geared towards a deficit free fiscal budget and zero deficit in external balance of payment by the year 1998 with measures implemented under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The EU had earlier announced that, in its continuous financial support to the Kingdom, it aimed at having "closer involvement and active participation in the structural adjustment process in Jordan, reducing the social cost of the reforms and ensuring that they are in line with the objectives of an imminent EU-Jordan association agreement."

The $110 million package comes from the MEDA programme, an aid instrument adopted in July 1996, and based on the principles of the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995, namely launching of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership and reinforcement of financial and technical support from the union to its Mediterranean partners.

Smoke rises above Naameh Hill, 15 kilometres south of Beirut, after Israeli warplanes launched an air raid on a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, but no casualties were reported (AFP photo)

Israeli planes raid guerrilla fighters base near Beirut

Civilian injured in south shelling

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian guerrillas near Beirut on Friday, firing missiles at fortified underground tunnels, security officials said.

The jets swooped down from over the Mediterranean to hit the base of the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command (PFLP-GC) in the hills of the coastal village of Naameh, about 16 kilometres south of the Lebanese capital.

There was no immediate word on casualties or the extent of damage from the 2:45 p.m. local time raid on the base, which is made up of a series of steel-enforced concrete tunnels dug in the hills. The tunnels are believed to store weapons and equipment.

Two jet fighters fired four air-to-surface missiles in two runs over the target, said the officials, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. The aircraft also made several surveillance runs.

Witnesses said black smoke billowed from the stricken area, and residents in nearby buildings took cover in lower-level apartments.

Lebanese army anti-aircraft batteries along the coastline opened up on the jets, but no hits were reported, they said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the raid on Naameh, a frequent target of the Israeli air force. Israel's air force hit the entrances to the tunnels at Naameh three times two months ago, the last time on Aug. 25.

The PFLP-GC, which is led by Ahmad Jibril, is opposed to the Middle East peace process and has occasionally taken part in attacks on Israeli forces occupying a border enclave in southern Lebanon.

Earlier in the day in the south, a truck driver was wounded when a shell fired from the Israeli-occupied sector struck the edge of the front-line town of Mashghara in the southern Bekaa Valley.

The 35-year-old man was wounded in the head by shrapnel as he loaded apples from a cold storage depot, the officials said.

The shell was fired from the Toumat Niha outpost, which is manned by the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army, west of the town. Hizbollah, the Shiite Islamist group leading the fight against Israel in the south, said its guerrillas attacked the Toumat Niha outpost with rockets and machine gun fire earlier in the day.

Following similar incidents in which civilians were hurt, Lebanon has complained to a multinational committee monitoring a truce to spare civilians in the south. The committee is made up of American, French, Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli representatives.

Israel and its allies have occupied a border enclave in the south since 1985. They have been locked in almost daily combat with Shiite guerrillas seeking to drive them out.

Security Council compromise reported in the works to toughen stand against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Security Council diplomats are working on a compromise to toughen measures against Iraq but limit the scope of a travel ban against Iraqi officials proposed by the United States, diplomatic sources said Friday.

The U.S. proposal was aimed at punishing Iraq for allegedly trying to conceal information about banned weapons programmes and setting restrictions on U.N. weapons inspectors.

Washington has asked the council to ban foreign travel by Iraqi military and intelligence officers and employees of certain Iraqi ministries. Chief Weapons Inspector Richard Butler said Iraq has threatened to stop cooperating with the U.N. Security Council and ban the U.N. inspections if more sanctions are imposed.

Russia has circulated its own draft resolution which would threaten new sanctions but stop short of imposing them now. Several other countries, including France, China and Egypt, are said to be reluctant to impose new sanctions.

But diplomats said there was a broad feeling that a strong message needed to be sent to Iraq.

To avoid a damaging showdown within the council, diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 15 council members are considering a compromise which would scale back the travel ban from all Iraqi police and military officials to those who deal directly with U.N. inspectors.

This, one diplomat suggested, would allow the United States to claim success in tightening measures against Baghdad without offending those less enthusiastic about cracking down on the Iraqis.

A Western diplomat said at least nine other council members had agreed to support the original U.S. proposal. But the key would be the endorsement of the permanent members — Russia, France, China and Britain in addition to the United States — which have veto power.

British Ambassador John Weston said discussions would continue in hopes of drafting a proposal to submit for a vote next week. A Russian diplomat, who asked not to be named, said he expected the U.S. and Russian drafts to be drafted into a compromise resolution. He said that Russia does not want sanctions imposed immediately, as does the United States. He said Russia wants to delay any additional sanctions until the next biannual report by the inspection team in April.

The United States wants the council to add travel restrictions to the list of sanctions slapped on Iraq since President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, touching off the Gulf war.

During a closed meeting with council members Thursday, Mr. Butler said that Iraq's U.N. ambassador informed him that Baghdad "will cease all further cooperation ... if the council adopted a resolution which included additional sanctions." The Associated Press obtained a copy of Mr. Butler's remarks.

Such a move would jeopardise an oil-for-food deal that required much negotiation and "no fly zones" over northern Iraq; both measures were approved by the council.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, confirmed Friday his government's warning to cease cooperation with the Security Council and the inspectors if additional sanctions are levied.

He would not say whether the non-cooperation would include all Security Council actions, which include a limited oil-for-food sale, or simply cooperation with arms inspectors.

The inspections, which have been carried out for nearly seven years, seek to determine whether Iraq has followed U.N. orders to scrap its nuclear, biological, chemical and long-range missile programmes.

Only then will the council lift the crippling economic sanctions, which were relaxed last year under the deal that allows Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine.

Turkish commandos complete withdrawal from north Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish mountain commando units have completed their withdrawal from northern Iraq following a three-week operation against separatist Turkish Kurds and other troops are continuing to pull out, Anatolian news agency said Friday.

The crack troops have gone back to two bases in the northeast of the country and on the border with Iran and Iraq, the agency said.

Authorities in Turkey have refused to reveal how many soldiers remain across the border. Nearly 15,000 Turkish troops, backed by more than 100 tanks and air power, poured into northern Iraq on Sept. 23 to wipe out bases belonging to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Turkey said Wednesday that its troops and Iraqi Kurdish allies had killed 862 PKK militiamen. Military officials say the Turkish troops captured more than 10 PKK bases in northern Iraq. The PKK denies this, saying it has been successfully resisting the Turkish campaign.

The PKK has been fighting the Ankara government for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeast since 1984. More than 26,000 people have died in Turkey in the conflict.

PUK says it captured 87 northern villages

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has captured a town and 87 villages from a rival Iraqi Kurd group in the Belek region of northern Iraq, Iran's official news agency, IRNA, reported Friday.

The PUK forces, reported to be advancing in Balek, near the Iranian border, seized the town of Gelaleh and surrounding villages from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), it said, citing PUK Radio.

The radio did not give a date for the latest conquest, but said 100-square kilometres of Balek was being controlled by the PUK and allies.

It added that PUK allied forces were presently entrenched on Hasan Beig Heights which looks over Bradust region.

The PUK had previously claimed to have captured the towns of Haj Omran, Qasra, Chuman and Nav Bordan in the Balek region.

IRNA said earlier that the PUK and KDP were engaged in a fierce battle in Haj Omran and Qasra as they prepared large concentrations of troops for a possible major confrontation.

"Right now bloody battles are underway," it said.

PUK troops and reserve militiamen in 16 brigades were called in on Thursday and Friday to military bases around the two towns in preparation for a major showdown, IRNA said.

"They have 12 hours to show up in Haj Omran and Qasra with complete military equipment," it said.

IRNA said the KDP has also summoned a "considerable number" of troops to its own bases in readiness for the battle.

The PUK of Jalal Talabani and the KDP of Massoud Barzani resumed fighting on Monday after a fragile one-year ceasefire, with both sides accusing the other of starting the clashes.

The two main factions have controlled most of northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. But their partnership collapsed in 1994 due to rifts over power-sharing and revenue.

More than 2,500 people have been killed in sporadic clashes since then.

France, Russia oppose U.S., Britain on Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — France's U.N. ambassador on Friday said a U.S.-British proposal for travel sanctions against Iraqi officials was unacceptable and that he was supporting a Russian resolution that threatened new measures but excluded them at this time.

"At this stage it is not acceptable to us," Ambassador Alain Dejammet told Reuters, referring to U.S. draft resolution that would prevent army, intelligence police and others from travelling outside Iraq.

Council experts on Iraq met privately on Friday to see if any compromise could be worked out and the issue will be discussed in the full council on Monday. British Ambassador Sir John Weston told reporters he had "a large number of co-sponsors and supporters" for the resolution.

But without the support of France and Russia, who along with the United States, Britain and China are permanent council members with veto power, the proposal will fail.

Egypt, S. Arabia deny U.S. claims on attending Doha's MENA conference

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt denied Friday it had committed to take part in a regional economic conference in Qatar next month, saying its participation depends on a change in Israel's policy towards the peace process.

U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said Wednesday that Washington had obtained guarantees from Saudi Arabia and Egypt to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in Doha from Nov. 16 to 18.

But an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Rubin's comments were unfounded.

"Egypt's position is unchanged. Its participation at the Doha conference hinges on a change in Israel's policy towards the peace process," the spokesman added.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been stalled since mid-March, mainly over Israel's settlement policy in the Palestinian territories.

The United States on Thursday sent an official request from U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for Egypt to attend the conference, which is to be attended by Israel.

U.S. envoy Stewart Eizenstat said it was imperative to "separate political considerations and the economic conference because investors wishing to invest in Egypt and the Middle East look for a climate of stability and want to feel that the obstacles blocking the peace process do not undermine their investments."

Saudi Arabia also denied Mr. Rubin's statements that it had made a commitment to attend.

Both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have previously said they would not attend the conference, where Israel will be represented by Foreign Minister David Levy, because of the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Syria and Lebanon have been boycotting the annual forum since its inception in 1994 in Morocco.

10 Israelis kept in custody over explosives sales to Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ten Israelis arrested for selling almost 200 kilogrammes of explosives to Palestinians, will be held for questioning for a further week, a court decided Thursday.

The suspects who own quarries in the West Bank were detained at the beginning of this week following the arrest last Friday near Jerusalem of two Palestinians in possession of 80 kilogrammes of explosives.

On Wednesday a court here extended the custody of two of the Israelis and took a similar decision Thursday for the other eight.

Police said the ten men had stolen almost 200 kilogrammes of explosives and 500 detonators several months ago in quarries near Jerusalem. They are alleged to have sold them to Palestinians out of greed.

Police said they believed the two Palestinians held were trying to sell the explosives to local builders, but would not rule out the possibility that the explosives were to be used for purposes of terrorism.

Israel arrests 29 illegal Egyptian workers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police held 29 illegal Egyptian workers on Friday in preparation for deportation after arresting them in pre-dawn raids in Tel Aviv, police sources said. The police raided two apartments in a Tel Aviv slum and arrested the 29 Egyptians, who had been working in Israel without permits. Police also seized a number of stolen objects found in the flat, including motorcycles, video machines and radios, the sources said.

Slain Arab attackers in Philippines were Palestinians

MANILA (AFP) — Two Arab nationals, killed in an alleged suicide attack on an army camp in the southern Philippines, were Palestinians carrying fake passports, a local television station said Friday. ABS-CBN quoted unnamed sources as saying the two Arabs, who attacked Camp Siongco on Tuesday, killing three people before being shot dead, were Palestinian students. They were identified as Mohammad Gharib, carrying an Egyptian passport and Ibrahim Sayed Ahmad, said to have Saudi Arabian and Pakistani papers. But the sources said these documents were fake. ABS-CBN said the military was looking at the possibility that the two attackers entered the country posing as foreign students but then dropped out of their classes. The military is also planning to contact intelligence agencies in Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Israel to try to determine the real identities of the two. The military had previously said the two were part of a group of foreigners training with a local Muslim group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF.) However, the MILF has denied the accusation and has suggested the two may have been arrested by the military for undisclosed reasons and then killed while trying to escape the camp.

Arafat to visit Paris next week

PARIS (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will visit Paris next week and meet with President Jacques Chirac, Arab diplomats here said Friday. Mr. Arafat is also to attend the UNESCO annual conference which opens on Oct. 21. The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said that top Palestinian peace negotiator Nabil Shaath will meet with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine on Tuesday. The French government wants to see a stronger European involvement in the Middle East peace process at a time when the talks have ground to halt.

Algerian Islamist group vows no truce

LONDON (AFP) — A dissident offshoot of Algeria's militant Islamic Armed Group (GIA), known as the Hattab group, said in a communiqué received in London that it rejected "any truce or reconciliation" with the Algerian regime. The group which is led by Hassan Hattab and operates mainly in eastern Algeria, said it would pursue its war against the "tyrants" in spite of a truce proclaimed by the armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front.

S. Arabia launches crackdown on illegal workers at end of amnesty

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia launched a crackdown on illegal foreign workers on Friday at the end of a three-month amnesty for tens of thousands of Asian and African "overstayers" to leave without punishment.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz warned that the punishments of up to six months in jail and a maximum fine of 100,000 riyals ($26,000) would be strictly imposed.

"These penalties will be strictly implemented and violators will be severely punished," Prince Nayef said, quoted in the Saudi newspaper Arab News.

Saudi nationals who have given shelter to overstayers and people who breach residence and labour laws also risk being fined up to 50,000 riyals ($13,000), he said.

But to curb abuse of a "sponsorship" system, Prince Nayef said authorities are considering the introduction of licences for national establishments to recruit labourers on behalf of citizens.

Under the current law, which is similar to systems operated in other Gulf countries, foreign workers are brought into the country by Saudi nationals and only allowed to work for their sponsors. If they change jobs, their status is no longer legal.

Some Saudi establishments have already started to handle the affairs of Muslim pilgrims from the time of their arrival right up to departure, in a bid to curb the phenomenon of overstayers, the interior minister said.

Around one third of the kingdom's 18 million population are expatriates, mainly from Asia. Most of the overstayers are former pilgrims to Islam's holiest sites in Mecca and Medina, near the port city of Jeddah.

The number of people living illegally in the kingdom is estimated at around half a million.

In the rush to leave in time for the amnesty, which expired at midnight, airlines operating to Asia and Africa reported heavy demand for seats all week. "We don't even have first class seats for India and Pakistan," one operator said.

A source at the Egyptian consulate, quoted in the Arab News, said arrangements were being made for some 15,000 of its nationals to leave the oil-rich Gulf state by ship across the Red Sea.

Several other consulates said they had cases of nationals who had their "emergency travel certificates" issued by the missions under the amnesty, but were unable to find places in time on planes or ships.

They were seeking temporary permits to stay on until their bookings for departure, something the authorities have so far ruled out.

The Indian consulate, closed on Friday for the Muslim weekend, said it had still not processed all its applicants for travel papers and would continue issuing them on Saturday.

A Saudi government spokesman said Wednesday that there were about 1.3 million Indian passport holders in Saudi Arabia, but did not give details of how many had to go. Indians make up the largest expatriate community in the country and make up the bulk of those being expelled.

Saudi authorities, which have not given an official figure for departures, set up deportation centres to process exit visas for those seeking to leave with emergency certificates.

"The amnesty will not be prolonged, even by a day," said the director general of Saudi Arabia's passport division, Assad Ben Abdulkarim Al Farish.

In 1996, the Saudi authorities expelled some 400,000 people several months after the pilgrimage.

Asian and African diplomatic missions say they have issued tens of thousands of passes for voluntary deportation since the amnesty was announced in mid-July, including for more than 35,000 Indians, who make up the largest expatriate community.

Among the Africans to have left are 30,000 Sudanese and 10,000 Nigerians, according to their missions.

But local authorities fear that as many as 100,000 other foreigners are still in hiding.

The passport department chief for Jeddah has said that a campaign to flush out illegal residents would be launched but "without inspection of family houses."

An Iraqi family answers questions by government officials conducting the country's official census on Thursday. Iraqis stayed at home on Thursday as the country conducted its first census for 10 years, the first since the imposition of sanctions by the United Nations following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf war (Reuters photo)

Iraqi population climbs to 22 million

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's population has soared to more than 22 million, a rise of 35 per cent over the past 10 years, according to official figures published on Friday.

A census conducted Thursday throughout Iraq, except the north where fighting is currently raging between feuding Kurdish factions, found the number of Iraqis is 22.02 million, including 10.94 million men and 11.08 million women.

The census, which was carried out under a dawn-to-dusk curfew, involved some 159,500 public officials handing out questionnaires to Iraqi families.

The north of the country has been under the control of the rival Kurdish factions in defiance of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war. A recent census by the U.N. World Food Programme said 3.1 million people lived in the region.

Recent official figures show that some four million people live in Baghdad.

The previous census in 1987, while Iraq was still waging war against Iran, found that the population was 16.3 million, more than half aged under 20.

During the first ever census conducted in 1927, the population amounted to around three million inhabitants.

Official figures showed that national population growth is a relatively high 3.4 per cent a year. The United Nations has forecast that the Iraqi population should exceed 46 million in 2025. Hundreds of thousands of people died in the war between Iraq and Iran from 1980 to 1988.

'Closure of Hamas welfare offices hurts poor Palestinians'

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The closure of Hamas welfare institutions by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in a crackdown against the group has hurt thousands of impoverished Palestinians, Hamas officials said on Friday.

"Some 15,000 families in the Gaza Strip receive material aid and supplies on an occasional basis from the institutions which have been closed," said Sheikh Ahmad Bahr, head of the Islamic Institute, the largest Hamas facility closed by the authority. "Six thousand families regularly receive aid every month. These families are the bitter poor, the families of martyrs, orphans, and for many of them our aid is their only source of income," Sheikh Bahr told Agence France Presse. Nearly 500 Palestinian women demonstrated Thursday in front of offices of the Palestinian legislative council in Rafah, in southern Gaza, demanding the reopening of the institutions, Palestinian papers said.

"There are many families which rely completely on the services these institutions give," said a sign carried by the women, addressed to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian security forces closed down 16 institutions from Hamas' large network of welfare and service agencies in the Gaza Strip last month as part of a crackdown against the group which it launched under pressure from Israel.

In a meeting with Hamas officials on Wednesday, Palestinian security officials agreed to form a commission to examine reopening the facilities.

Mansur Abu Hamid, the head of one of the closed institutions, told AFP he had refused a suggestion that Palestinian police distribute supplies piled up in the institutions to welfare recipients.

Sheikh Bahr denied charges by the authority that the institutions were a front for the armed activities of Hamas.

"They are not part of the Hamas infrastructure. These are charity organisations which receive donations from individuals and groups here and abroad to help humanitarian projects for the poor," he said.

He said the heads of the closed organisations had sent a joint letter to Mr. Arafat asking him to reopen their facilities. "We are also thinking of turning to the courts to get an order to reopen them, since we believe their closing is an act which violates the principles of democracy," Sheikh Bahr said.

Khartoum reshuffles military leadership

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has conducted a major reshuffle of its military leadership, replacing the armed forces chief, it was announced here.

Armed forces chief of staff, General Ibrahim Suleiman Hassan was retired and will be replaced by his deputy, General Sidahmed Hamad Siraj, an announcement said Thursday night.

The shake-up also shifted General Mohammad Al Sasousi Ahmad from the position of deputy chief of staff to moral guidance and spokesman to deputy chief of staff for security and intelligence. He is to replace General Mohammad Al Radhi Naser Eddin who has been named deputy chief of staff for administration.

Former River Nile Wali (governor), Abdul Rahman Sir Al Khatim who was a retired army brigadier, returns to active military service. He has been promoted to general and becomes deputy chief of staff for moral guidance and official spokesman.

General Mohammad Abdul Qadir Idriss has been dismissed as minister in the defence ministry and replaced by General Salah Mohammad Salih whose former job as deputy chief of staff for supplies will be taken over by Major General Abbas Arabi who becomes a full general.

Government slams Amnesty report of abuses

BEIRUT (AP) — The government on Thursday denounced an Amnesty International report that accused Lebanese and Syrian security forces of human rights abuses.

"The report's content is flight of fancy by some Lebanese who are in contact with this organisation, giving it false information that were adopted without checking its accuracy," Interior Minister Michel Murr said.

It was the first official comment on the extensive Amnesty International report on Lebanon since the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990.

In the report that was released Oct. 9, Amnesty accused the Lebanese government of carrying out arbitrary political arrests, torture and abuse of suspects in post-civil war Lebanon in the name of consolidating state authority.

It cited the arrest of suspects in Lebanon who ended up in jails in neighbouring Syria, which has 40,000 troops deployed in this country and is the main power broker here.

The London-based group said it was aware of at least 200 Lebanese nationals who were detained in Syria, mostly without charge or trial.

Mr. Murr said the prosecutor general will prepare a detailed response along with facts to refute "the slander and accusations made by this organisation which should have respected itself more."

Mr. Murr spoke to reporters after a meeting of the Central Security Council, a body comprising Lebanese judicial officials and military officers, including those from the Syrian army.

Israeli school field trips cancelled ... for lack of guns

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli teachers and youth leaders have had to cancel student field trips this year because they can't obtain guns to take along with them on their excursions, the Jerusalem Post newspaper said Friday.

Under Israeli law, student excursions inside Israel or in the occupied territories must be accompanied by an armed guard to protect against "attacks."

Traditionally, a parent has acted as guard, trailing along behind the students with an automatic rifle slung over his shoulder. But new police regulations imposed this year make it more difficult to obtain a weapon.

"The real meaning of these new regulations is that we cannot get weapons for our trips," Naftali Deri, secretary general of the Council for Youth Movements, told the English-language Post.

Hundreds of trips have been cancelled for the 1997-98 school year because of the inability to obtain a gun, the newspaper said.

Previously, a parent was required only to have served recently in the army reserves for the police to issue an M-1 carbine for use during a school trip.

But new regulations enacted for this school year require the escort to have increased training with the weapon and win approval from the interior ministry, a process which takes months.

"The suddenness of the changes has put us in an impossible position. We have appealed to the ministries of police, interior and education. But there have been no solutions," said Mr. Deri.

A spokesman for the education ministry said it was "doing all it can" to train teachers to qualify to carry arms on the trips.

Meanwhile, youth groups have tried to find off-duty soldiers to come along on trips or hire professional armed guards.

"But it is very hard to find soldiers and hiring guards from a company makes out trips prohibitively expensive," said Israel Avita, from a Jerusalem youth group that specialises in field trips.

A police spokesman said the new regulations were necessary "to ensure that whoever receives weapons from the police be fit to bear arms. The changes were instituted to improve security on trips."

The regulations were created last year, when the police placed tighter restrictions on the carrying of weapons by civilians.

But Mr. Deri insists security was fine under the old rules, which have been in place since the creation of Israel in 1948.

"For 50 years, I do not recall an incident of a volunteer armed escort running amok on a school or youth movement trip," he said.

"I do recall a number of incidents where soldiers or reservists went crazy. The army can issue weapons to anyone and we can use these soldiers (for trips) but restrictions are placed on our volunteers," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 ....Twinkle
14:30 ....Muppet Show
15:00 ....World Of Geo
16:00 ....The Valley Between
16:30 ....Beakman's World
17:00 ....French programmes
19:00 ....Le Journal
19:30 ....News headlines
19:35 ....Neighbours
20:00 ....The Newly Weds
20:30 ....Prism
21:10 ....Time Trax
22:00 ....News in English
22:30 ....Feature film
23:59 ....Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 ....Fajr
05:37 ....(Sunrise) Duha
11:21 ....Dhuhr
14:34 ....'Asr
17:05 ....Maghreb
18:22 ....'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunication Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

There will be a significant drop in temperatures and skies becoming cloudy to partly cloudy. Scattered showers accompanied by thunder storms are also expected with winds westerly to northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.,
Amman 17/27
Aqaba 22/31
Deserts 18/28
Jordan Valley 22/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33 Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Afif Shukri 398863
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Dr. Sa'id Tawfiq 788285
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir ..276802
Al Quds pharmacy ....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ratib Atallah 994424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ...199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital ..667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ....(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ....(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital ....(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ....(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ....(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ....(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:05 ....Damascus (RJ)
08:45 ....New Delhi (RJ)
09:25 ....Beirut (RJ)
09:30 ....Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 ....Aqaba (add) (RJ)
11:15 ....Colombo, Dubai (RJ)
14:55 ....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:15 ....Cairo (RJ)
18:10 ....London, Berlin (RJ)
21:15 ....Paris (add) (RJ)
23:00 ....Paris (RJ)
04:30 ....Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights
05:10 ....Jakarta (GA)
06:05 ....London, Damascus (BA)
09:30 ....Al 'Arish (PF)
12:00 ....Riyadh (SV)
12:10 ....Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:05 ....Vienna (OS)
15:30 ....Dubai (EK)
16:00 ....Doha (QR)
17:25 ....Antalia (TK)
19:10 ....London (GA)
20:10 ....Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:15 ....Cairo (MS)
22:25 ....Beirut (ME)
22:45 ....Amsterdam (KL)
00:15 ....London (BA)
02:00 ....Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45 ....Beirut (RJ)
07:00 ....Aqaba (add) (RJ)
08:50 ....Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
11:40 ....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 ....Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:15 ....Cairo (RJ)
12:30 ....Paris (RJ)
13:05 ....London (RJ)
13:45 ....Madrid (RJ)
20:10 ....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:25 ....Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 ....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 ....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 ....Bombay (RJ)
23:59 ....Paris (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
03:00 ....Rome (AZ)
03:00 ....Athens (OA)
05:50 ....Larnaca (CY)
06:10 ....London (GA)
06:55 ....London (BA)
07:10 ....Damascus, London (BA)
10:30 ....Al'Arish (PF)
13:30 ....Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:30 ....Riyadh (SV)
15:50 ....Vienna (OS)
16:45 ....Dubai (EK)
16:50 ....Doha (QR)
18:25 ....Antalia (TK)
20:10 ....Jakarta (GA)
22:15 ....Cairo (MS)
22:55 ....Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:25 ....Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 ....Rome (AZ)
03:00 ....Athens (GA)

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

...'s official census on Thursday, ...years, the first since the impo... subsequent Gulf war (Reuters)

...22 million

...ort of abuses

PRINCESS RANIA ATTENDS ANTI-SMOKING MARCH: **Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Friday took part in the march to highight the dangers of cancer and smoking, which was organised by the Jordanian Society for Combating Cancer (JSCC) and the Jordanian Society for Combating Smoking (JSCS). Taking part in the rally were members of the two societies and representatives of universities and schools, as well as the public (Petra photo)**

Tribal leaders, former military members competing in bedouin district races

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tribal leaders, former army officers, and other candidates are contesting in the Nov. 4 parliament elections to win the six seats allocated for the three Bedouin constituencies.

The 51 candidates, representing the Northern, Central, and Southern Bedouin consistencies, are competing to win the allegiance of their tribal kin through promises to improve health, educational, and other services for the bedouins in Jordan.

The candidates' programmes also focus on solving the unemployment and poverty of the bedouins as well. Regional and foreign policies are not of much interest in the programmes of these candidates.

The Northern Bedouins constituency, where 14 candidates are campaigning to win two seats, includes 41,565 voters.

The candidates represent the major tribes in the northern badia such as the Qadi, Srour, Sarhan, Khaldi, Othemat, Sharafat, and Al Own tribes.

Among the candidates is the former speaker of the Lower House Sa'ed Hayel Srour, who is being challenged by his cousin Abdullah Srour, an engineer, in their native place of Um Ijmal.

Other candidates include Adoub Falah Outein, Deifallah Kheiber (tribal leader), Faris Qadi (retired army lieutenant), Fayez Fadel Madi (an employee at Al al Bayt University in Mafraq), and Mohammad Khaldi.

The list also includes Mohammad Athamat (a physician), Mohammad Mu'ar'ar (former deputy), Mohammad Breik (retired teacher), Mohammad Soud Qadi (tribal leader), Odeh Trman (lawyer), Sweilem Sayan (a lawyer), and Zayed Arab Own (tribal leader).

In the Southern Bedouins constituency, which covers a large area in four governorates, namely Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba, and Tafileh, 17 candidates are contesting for two seats.

The candidates are representing the following tribes: Al Noumat, Njadat, Rokeibat, Maneen, Saediyeen, Rashaydeh, Abu Tayeh, and others.

Among the major candidates in this constituency are Mohammad Odeh Njadat, a former minister of State and former chairman of the fifth battalion, and Abdullah Haroun Jazi, a physician by profession and a former minister.

The list also includes: Ali Awad Noumat (retired colonel), Ahmad Abu Khalil (former government employee), Ali Mohammad Nueimat (a driver), Awad Salem Abu Tayeh (teacher), Bakhit Maneen (farmer), Faleh Mara'yeh (teacher), Khalaf Rawajfeh (a former minister and retired army officer), Misha'al Abu Tayeh (tribal leader), Nazzal Rukeibat (farmer), Ruweidi Sa'edyeen (a retired army officer), Salem Jazi (farmer), Salem Zawaideh (a retired army lieutenant), Sayel Mohammad Rashaydeh (a retired army general), and Smour Huweitat (a retired army officer).

The list includes Yusra Jazi, the only woman among the 17 candidates, who is running in her native area of Huseiniyeh.

The Central Bedouins district, the stronghold of the influential Bani Sakhr tribe, includes 20 candidates, mostly tribal leaders, retired army and intelligence officers, and independents.

The candidates represent the following clans of Bani Sakhr: Khreisheh, Ziben, Kaabneh, Tayeb, Jbour, Dahamsheh, Jahawsheh, and Reidini.

Among the major candidates are Mohammad Adoub Ziben, a physician by profession and a former member of parliament and Jamal Khreisheh, a former army officer who represents the pro-government National Constitutional Party. The two candidates represented the Central Bedouins in the former parliament.

The list also includes: Ahmad Bani Sakher, Badi Rudeini, Darweesh Satel, Deifallah Mansour Ziben, Fayez Dahamsheh, Ghazi Fayez, Hayil Zebin, Jamil Jahawsheh, Lafi Ziben, Mohammad Hukeish, Odeh Hmoud, Riyad Abu Tayeb, S'oud Zuhair, Saleh Jbour, Shayesh Khreishah, Soud Khannan, and Wisaf Ka'abneh.

One candidate, Deifallah Mitlak Ziben, recently had his candidacy rejected.

Government concludes deal for tobacco companies, growers

AMMAN (Petra) — The government announced Friday that it has concluded a deal between the Jordanian tobacco companies and tobacco growers designed to help the farmers market their product in the 1998 agricultural season.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki said his ministry and the Ministry of Finance have received repeated appeals from tobacco farmers to help persuade the local tobacco companies to buy their product in the upcoming agricultural season and the two ministries succeeded in arriving at a solution to this problem.

Tobacco firms that have large stocks of locally-produced tobacco and are not in need of any more have agreed to buy local produce next year to process for export purposes only, he said.

The farmers agreed to limit cultivation to 29,000 dunums of land next agricultural season because the tobacco firms have a large surplus of unused tobacco still in store, according to the minister.

Dr. Mulki stated that though the government has intervened this year in a bid to help the farmers, it would not do so in the future because it cannot interfere in the affairs of the private sector.

He advised tobacco producers to take independent measures to ensure the sale of their product since, he said, tobacco produce will be subject to the principle of supply and demand according to the market's needs.

U.N., government teaming up to help Kingdom's impoverished

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which was observed Friday, marked a 1996 U.N. General Assembly declaration that the next ten years will witness the worldwide elimination of poverty.

Official statistics indicate that 20 per cent of the Jordanian population lives below the poverty line. Poverty in Jordan is considered a serious issue and the government has drawn up numerous programmes for the eradication of poverty.

These include the National Aid Fund (NAF), which provides financial assistance to those who are not expected to work, such as the disabled, female-headed households, and the elderly.

The NAF provides grants for family emergencies and has covered 1.9 per cent of the population this year with a budget of JD21.9 million.

The government is embarking on a food subsidy system that provides a cash subsidy of JD0.72 per person per month for households with a monthly income less than JD600. This system replaces the "food coupon" mechanism for rice, sugar, and milk.

An important step the government has adopted is the 1996 Social Productivity Programme (SPP), which has the goal of eliminating poverty. The SPP stresses five basic needs, including health, education, information and technology, infrastructure, and effective governance.

The programme intends to make a visible impact on the living conditions of the poor and their income, and to assist them in finding productive employment.

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) has been working with the government in these areas, particularly the SPP, for the realisation of mechanisms for the reduction of poverty in the Kingdom, UNDP Representative Jorgen Lissner told the Jordan Times.

"Combating poverty, integrating the poor into the economy, giving them a chance, and opening up opportunities for them, is a good investment in a stable and [prosperous] economy," he said.

According to Mr. Lissner, Jordan is among the few Arab countries that has formulated and publicly announced "its intention to invest [substantial sums] in anti-poverty measures."

The UNDP is working with the Ministry of Planning and World Bank representatives in the design and implementation of SPP.

Mr. Lissner described SPP as "a real combination of excellent measures that are needed in strengthening the abilities of low-income Jordanians in improving their lives."

However, policies must have a proper mechanism for implementation, and for this reason the UNDP, according to Mr. Lissner, is extending support to the Ministry of Labour in providing relevant training for unemployed Jordanians.

Further cooperation between the NAF and UNDP includes determining "who the poor are and what type of support they could make use of," he said, adding that studies are therefore being conducted to determine the current NAF beneficiaries.

To mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the UNPD is bringing together 70 people involved in poverty programmes in Jordan in a one-day seminar on Oct. 22. A local documentary, entitled "Face to Face with Poverty," will be shown during this event.

Three contracts signed for piping water to Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has concluded three agreements for bringing water to Amman and for the exploration of water resources in the Kingdom with assistance from the U.S., Germany, and Japan.

The first agreement was signed with an American consulting firm working in conjunction with a Jordanian firm to prepare designs and tender documents for a project to bring water from the Jordan Valley to Amman.

The deal covers laying pipelines from the town of Zay to Dabouk, a point close to west Amman. The consulting services will be covered by an American grant of JD100,000.

Under the deal, the German government will finance the construction of the pipeline early next year.

Japan will finance in full the consultative services and the construction of the other part of the pipeline, which is to connect Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley to the town of Zay.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin signed the contract with the representatives of the American and Jordanian consulting firms.

The other two agreements deal with exploration of underground water resources in various locations of the country.

One of the agreements was concluded with a Jordanian drilling firm and the other with a British consulting firm to supervise the drilling operations.

The projects outlined in the two agreements will cost JD1 million and will be funded from the government's treasury. According to the agreements, work on the drilling operations will be concluded in six months.

Nearly 1 million citizens have received voter cards — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total number of citizens who have received their voter cards enabling them to take part in next month's general elections has now reached 916,810, of whom 479,092 are males and 437,718 females, the Ministry of Interior announced Friday.

According to a statistical report in Al Ra'i Friday, the percentage of total eligible voters who received voter cards in the Amman region was 39.96 per cent, in Irbid, 44.6 per cent, Balqa, 58.7 per cent, Karak, 68.8 per cent, Ma'an, 76.9 per cent, Zarqa 30.5 per cent, Mafraq 53 per cent, Madaba, 60.6 per cent, Jerash 46.3 per cent, and Ajloun, 48.8 per cent.

A total of 561 candidates, including 17 women, registered for the elections, but 13 candidacies have been rejected so far because the government said they failed to meet the stipulated requirements.

In a bid to provide more facilities to the public to enable them to receive voter cards, a ministry statement said Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid has decided to open an information bureau to answer election-related queries.

The statement said the public can contact the bureau by telephone at 701045, 701046, and 701047, or by fax at 701624, 701025, and 701626.

The minister has instructed district governors to open similar offices for the benefit of the public, according to the statement.

Questions about the general elections were discussed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali during a visit to Aqaba in southern Jordan Thursday.

Dr. Majali was quoted as saying the government encourages all citizens to go to the polling stations next month and will not allow any government official to abuse his or her position to promote any political party or allow any body or group to call for boycotting the elections.

Any official caught abusing his authority in this manner will be transferred to another post for violating the law, the prime minister warned.

Stating that voting is a constitutional right for all citizens, the prime minister said anyone found obstructing the election process should be punished.

The government intends to create the most adequate atmosphere for the upcoming elections and enhance the process of democracy, according to Dr. Majali.

Candidates are invited to examine the government's measures and preparations for the elections and vote counting in the country's different regions, he said.

Accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of staging their boycott to embarrass the government before the world, the prime minister said Jordan takes pride in being a democratic state that is open to political pluralism and allows all kinds of parties in the field.

He expressed the view that the Muslim Brotherhood is a religious group that is not concerned with politics.

He said the government plans to submit a modern election draft law to the next Parliament.

Japanese women's delegation visits Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Japanese delegation composed of five women arrived Oct. 17 for a four-day visit to the Kingdom under the Exchange of Women Programme between Japan and Jordan, according to a Japanese embassy press release.

During their visit, they will attend a meeting at the General Federation of Jordanian Women, during which many topics about women activities will be discussed, the announcement continued.

This programme was proposed by the government of Japan when Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath visited Japan in May 1995, on the occasion of Jordan Week in Japan. The objective of this programme is to promote mutual friendship and understanding between Japanese and Jordanian women through discussions and visits to various organisations and facilities in the field of women's activities in each country, the statement read.

Under this programme, two Jordanian delegations of five women each from the General Federation of Jordanian Women visited Japan in January 1996 and February 1997, while a Japanese delegation visited Jordan in March 1996, according to the press release.

It is expected that this exchange programme will contribute to further enhancing mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries, thus promoting the bilateral relations, the statement concluded.

Group issues new call for election boycott

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of ten people calling themselves "The Movement in Support of Election Boycott" Friday called on Jordanians to boycott the 1997 parliamentary elections by giving support to the political parties and associations in their national reform programme.

In a press release sent to the Jordan Times, the movement's preparatory committee members stated that the government has gone ahead with its plan to hold general elections on the basis of the one-person, one-vote system, which serves only the interests of the government and ignores those of the people.

"We live in a state of deterioration of democratic, political, and economic life at a time when we are on the threshold of a new era. The government has insisted on holding elections on the one-person, one-vote system and has shown its intransigence clearly when it turned a deaf ear to all calls for holding truly representative elections," the press release said.

The statement added that the one-person, one-vote system breeds division among the people of Jordan, adversely affects the social infrastructure, and marginalises the role of the civil institutions.

"Holding the elections does not meet our people's aspirations, in the sense that the elections will not turn out a very responsible Parliament at this critical stage," the release continued.

"Such government procedures do not respect public freedoms, since the next Parliament will be the government's vehicle to follow up the remaining parts and provisions of the Wadi Araba and Oslo Accords, which will finalise the stalemated issues and outline the final shape of Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian relations," according to the statement.

"Then, after the government passes all these resolutions and decisions through Parliament, it will put the blame on them," the release said.

The movement also called for a public boycott and asked those concerned to hold seminars and lectures and to send out invitations for all political parties to attend a meeting in Irbid on Oct. 23, to discuss this issue.

The preparatory committee members are Shibadeh Abu Shareef, Majed Khasaweh, Jamal Obeidat, Eidah Mutlaq, Faisal Tall, Salem Qudah, Najeh Khatif, and Amneh Zu'bi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* German film "Der Austernexpress" at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 4:30 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

* French Film "Grosse Fatigue" and Italian film "Il Grande Cocomero" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

MOTOR SHOW

* "Motor Show 98" at Amman International Motor Show (Tel. 714211), until Oct. 20.

EXHIBITIONS

* Ceramics exhibition by Ra'd Dlaimi at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina, until Oct. 30.
* "Oriental Gem Trees" by Latifi Abu Hamdan at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 23.
* Paintings by Iraqi artist Walid Nasrallah at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 28.
* Paintings by Abdul Qadir Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 30.
* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al-Ebadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 55375980).
* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.
* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.
* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

Minister presents tourism plan to ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji last week presented his ministry's strategy to promote tourism, which was recently endorsed by the Council of Ministers, to the ambassadors of 15 nations.

After the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Mr. Biltaji said these countries are the main source of tourists visiting the Kingdom and have strong links with the country.

He said he briefed the envoys on the ministry's plans for stimulating the tourism industry, and discussed progress on a number of touristic and archaeological projects in which these nations are involved and the training of personnel involved in the tourism sector.

He said the meeting was within the framework of the ministry's drive to boost the tourism revenues of Jordan, which he said enjoys the stability and security considered conducive to attracting tourists.

The envoys represented Germany, Switzerland, the U.S., Russia, Norway, Spain, Italy, the U.K., Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia, Greece, France, Finland, and South Africa, and included the head of the European Union delegation and the U.N. Development Programme resident representative in Jordan.

According to Mr. Biltaji, he urged the envoys to support the ministry's strategy and market Jordan abroad.

CONDOLENCES

The Staff, Parents, Children and Managing Committee of the

International Community School

would like to extend their most sincere condolences to

Mrs. Paula Williams-Brown,

upon the sad loss of her husband,

Dennis Brown

Dennis worked enthusiastically for the school and was the Chairman of the School Managing Committee during his last two years in Amman.

Singapore gets foreign help in cleaning up worst oil spill

SINGAPORE (AFP) — A major cleanup intensified Friday to tackle the worst oil spill in Singapore's history which dumped 25,000 tonnes of petroleum on a busy strait.

The port authorities brought in the armed forces and multinational firms also gave help.

"The oil is contained," Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) spokeswoman Ong Chong Peng told AFP. "We are continuing our efforts with the cleanup."

Marine fuel oil spilled into the Singapore Strait after a collision Wednesday between the Thai-registered 129,702-tonne crude carrier Orapin Global and the Cyprus-flagged 75,428-tonne oil tanker Evoikos.

The crash badly damaged the Evoikos, which was carrying 120,000 tonnes of marine fuel oil from the United Arab Emirates. The Orapin Global, a very large crude carrier, was empty at the time of the accident just outside Singapore port limits and escaped with relatively minor damage.

Ms. Ong said Australia, Japan and the United States had agreed to provide equipment for the cleanup effort. Booms were installed to stop the oil from tainting beaches along the island's south and east coast.

The MPA said Singapore's main island as well as the resort island of Sentosa, popular among foreign tourists, were so far unaffected by the spill.

Conservationists feared for coral reefs in the affected area, believed to be among the better ones around Singapore.

"Any oil spills would pose a possible threat to coral reefs and other marine life in the area. At present we cannot determine the extent of the effects because we are still tied up with the cleanup operations," Ms. Ong said.

At least 34 anti-pollution craft have been mobilised for the clean-up, including vessels from Shell, Caltex, Esso, Mobil and other petroleum concerns in Singapore, a major international oil refining centre.

The Singapore armed forces were also involved in the operation.

Helicopters were mobilised Friday to spray dispersants that would make the oil break up on the water surface, the MPA said.

The operation also involves vessels equipped with "skimmers," devices which scoop up the oil and pump it into tanks.

Traffic along the strait was unaffected and passing vessels were being warned about the clean-up operations, the MPA said.

Investigators were still trying determine why the ships collided despite a radio warning from the MPA — acknowledged by both vessels — that radar showed they were on a collision course. Six minutes after the alert they crashed.

"They had enough time to avoid each other and visibility was good at eight kilometres which is normal," Colonel Lee Seng Kong, director of the MPA's shipping division, told the Straits Times.

The newspaper said that one of the vessels may have been sailing in the wrong lane. Under a traffic separation scheme, vessels plying the strait are given specific lanes to sail along.

"Vessels are allowed to sail in a certain direction only along certain lanes," Mr. Lee said.

The MPA earlier estimated the oil spill at no more than 4,000 tonnes, just one-sixth the actual volume. Port master Captain Mark Heah said the estimate was given by the Evoikos' ship master.

A spokeswoman for the upmarket Shangri-La Hotel on the resort island of Sentosa said there were no signs of oil patches reaching the area, and that no restrictions had been imposed so far on swimming on its beaches.

"We don't see any signs of it," she said. "I believe they're trying to contain it."

Australia on standby to clean up spill

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Australian specialists have been put on alert to help clean up the worst oil spill in Singapore's history, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said Friday.

Public Relations Manager David Gray said Singapore officials had requested help from the authority through the Australian High Commission, which was liaising between the maritime bodies.

"... We have identified up to 25 trained personnel and we have set aside equipment from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne," he said.

Singapore suffered the worst marine oil spill in its history when the Thai-registered 129,702-tonne crude carrier Orapin Global and the Cyprus-flagged 75,428-tonne oil tanker Evoikos collided in the busy strait.

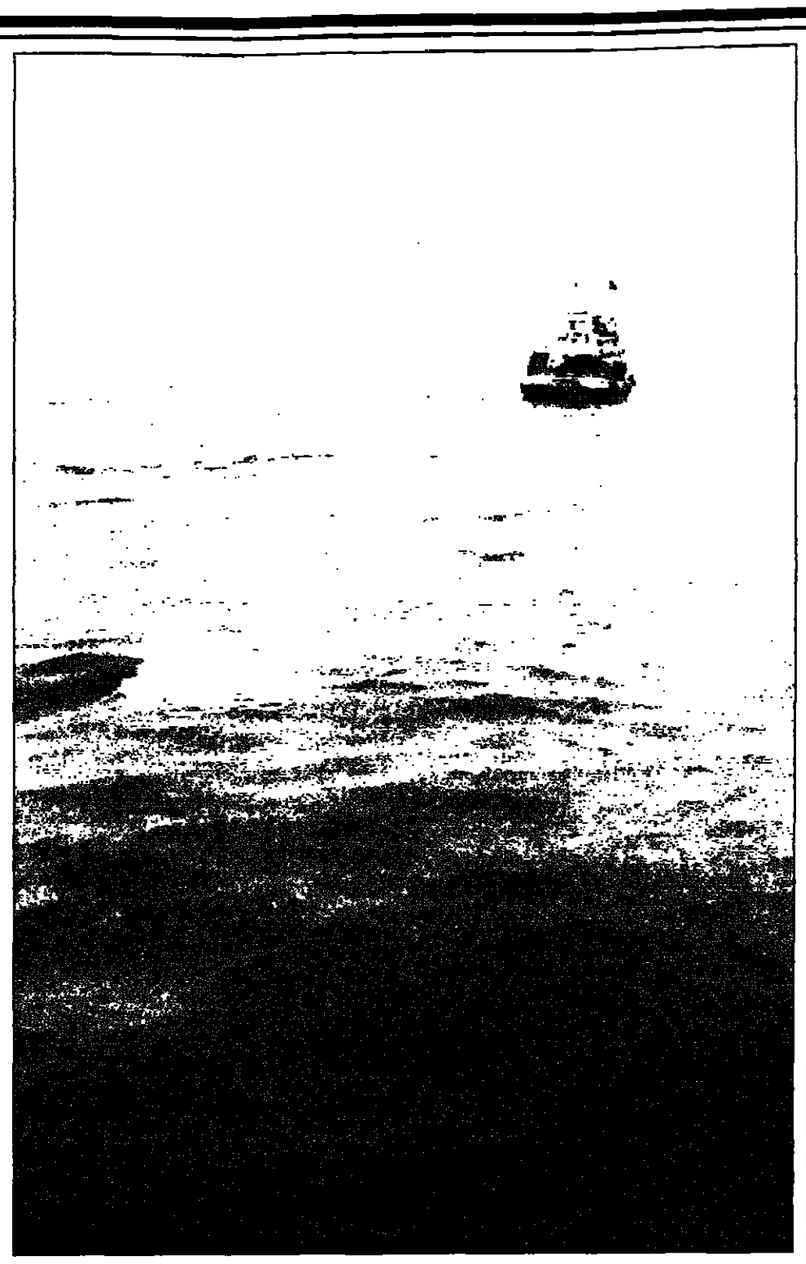
Maritime and Port Authority officials estimated about 25,000 tonnes of marine fuel oil had spilled into the ocean as a result of the collision.

The Singapore authority said it had asked for help from Australia, Japan and the United States for additional equipment.

Mr. Gray said equipment that had been placed on standby included self-powered oil recovery vessels, oil skimmers and floating recovery tanks and containers.

"They'll weigh up where's the oil's travelling over the next couple of days and ascertain whether they can handle it with their own equipment.

"If they realise it's beyond their resources, then they'll call on their nearest neighbours, which is us."



An oil spill control boat sprays oil dispersing solvents in the vicinity of a collision between Cyprus registered oil tanker 'Evoikos' and Thai registered supertanker 'Orapin Global' (Reuter photo)

Taleban 'ready to hold talks with opposition'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The chief of Afghanistan's Taleban government told Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here Friday his side was willing to hold talks in Pakistan with the Afghan northern opposition alliance, officials said.

Mullah Rabbani, quoted by a Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement here, said the talks should be held in Pakistan and attended by the "heads" of all factions represented in the opposition alliance to make them "useful."

Mr. Rabbani, leading a high-level delegation, met Mr. Sharif during a "short" visit to Islamabad, which was not announced in advance.

He said the Taleban were "willing" to hold talks with the opposition alliance "as a mark of respect" for the Pakistani leader, who reiterated during the meeting Islamabad's policy to "facilitate a political settlement."

The Taleban leader accused the "divided and disunited" opposition of using such talks in the past as "a cover to regroup and prepare themselves for fighting," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

He said "absolute peace" prevailed in the 80 per cent of the territory controlled by the Islamic militia, whereas the continued fighting in the north showed "considerable support" for the Taleban in that region.

The anti-Taleban alliance includes Uzbek fighters loyal to warlords Abdul Malik or Abdul Rashid Dostam, the ousted Kabul government and two Muslim Shiite factions.

The Islamic militia, which seized Kabul in September last year, has imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic Sharia Law in areas under its control.

The United Nations special envoy, Norbert Holl, told a news conference in Kabul Wednesday the Afghan civil war had no chance of a solution without the cooperation of Pakistan and Iran.

"It is no secret to say that peace is not possible in Afghanistan without the full cooperation of Pakistan and Iran," he said.

Pakistan has recognised the Taleban government as the legitimate ruling authority in Afghanistan, while Iran supports the opposition alliance.

The two, which both shelter Afghan refugees, have held a series of meetings in the past to coordinate their efforts for a political settlement in the war-torn country, but without apparent progress.

Opposition MP returns to Cambodia to seek dialogue with government

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — An outspoken opposition member of parliament who fled Cambodia following the violent ouster of co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh returned home Friday seeking a dialogue with the government.

Son Chhay, one of 18 MPs in exile abroad fearing persecution at the hands of strongman Hun Sen, said he had returned for a fact-finding visit and to broker talks between the government and the prince's supporters.

"I just want to find out what Cambodia is like today," Son Chhay told reporters on his arrival at Phnom Penh airport where he was met by U.N. officials who escorted him into the capital.

He said he would suggest that Hun Sen step down to allow a neutral caretaker government to run the country until next May's scheduled election, but said he did not hold out much hope of that happening.

"I would like to meet Hun Sen as a mediator so when I go back to (the prince's headquarters in) Bangkok, I can tell (my colleagues) what Hun Sen is offering."

Son Chhay, a member of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP), said he had not been moved to return by a threat from parliament chief Chea Sim who last week said that if exiled MPs did not return soon to attend the assembly, they would lose their seats.

"I will not attend parliament, so if MPs are expelled, I will be one of them," he said.

The government has assured absent MPs they will be safe and urged them to return to take part in debate over election legislation.

But many MPs remain scared as human rights workers have uncovered evidence that at least 41 of the prince's supporters were executed following his ouster in July.

"The (MPs) are frightened," Son Chhay said. "They did not go away on holiday. They were scared. I would like the National Assembly to understand this."

During his expected five-day stay in Cambodia, he said he would like to meet Chea Sim, Hun Sen, King Norodom Sihanouk as well as human rights and pro-democracy groups.

Philippine senator criticises anti-drug deal with Burma

MANILA (AFP) — A leading opposition senator Friday criticised Philippine President Fidel Ramos for signing an anti-drug agreement with Burma, whose government he accused of involvement in global drug-trafficking.

"We have nothing or little to gain from such an agreement with a military regime which coddles drug lords," anti-crime crusader Ernesto Herrera said in a statement.

During a three-day visit to Burma which ended Friday, Mr. Ramos signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation to curb drug trafficking, including the exchange of information and anti-narcotics personnel.

Senator Herrera said he wondered "how Ramos failed to see the irony and futility of cooperating in an anti-drug campaign with a military government which backs up the illicit drug industry."

Burma is by far the world's largest producer of opium and its derivative heroin, and increasingly amphetamine-type drugs which have become a scourge in South East Asia, including the Philippines, in recent years. "In fact some 60 to 80 per cent of the heroin that is trans-shipped through the Philippines come from Burma," Mr. Herrera said.

Burmese state press hailed the visit of Mr. Ramos, the first Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) head of state to come to the country following its controversial entry into the regional grouping in July. Burma's entry into ASEAN was opposed by Western nations critical of the Junta's human rights record, suppression of democracy and alleged drug-pushing.

The United States has strongly criticised Rangoon's military rulers for allegedly failing to crack down on drug production and trafficking.

Over 200 arrested in anti-Clinton clashes in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — More than 200 people were arrested here late Thursday during a leftist demonstration against visiting U.S. President Bill Clinton that turned violent, police said.

The trouble began when some 1,000 marchers brought together by leftist groups were stopped by police several blocks from a reception attended by Mr. Clinton and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

Angered by the police blockade, 50 hooded demonstrators went on a destructive rampage, pelting banks, store fronts, buildings and parked cars in a 10-block area with stones, sticks and Molotov cocktails.

Riot police then went into action, rounding up the troublemakers with tear gas and baton charges.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, but police said they made 206 arrests in the area.

The main body of the demonstration meanwhile tried to reach Mr. Menem and Mr. Clinton by another route, only to find their path blocked once again by police some five blocks from where the two leaders were meeting.

The leftist marchers shouted disapproval of Mr. Clinton and Mr. Menem and waved anti-American banners before dispersing peacefully.

An Argentine leftist demonstrator is arrested during a violent demonstration in the center of Buenos Aires during the first day of a state visit by President Clinton (Reuter photo)

Italian PM restored to power

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Romano Prodi won confidence votes in both houses of Italy's parliament Thursday, restoring his government to full power exactly a week after a revolt by his hard-left allies forced him to resign.

Communist Refoundation Party, which signed a last gasp compromise deal Tuesday over the contested 1998 budget, returned to the government fold and ensured Mr. Prodi carried the two motions with ease.

Mr. Prodi told parliament that the formal conclusion to the political crisis, which at one time looking like jeopardising Italy's hopes of becoming a founder member of Europe's planned single currency, would usher in a new period for the country.

"This crisis has left us more mature and stronger," Mr. Prodi said in a speech to the upper house (senate).

"Now we start on a new phase, a second phase which will see the economic overhaul as an absolute priority. The problem is no longer getting into Europe, but staying there, and staying there as a leading player," he said.

However, peace on the political front has come at a heavy cost to government relations with both employers' federation Confindustria and the major trades' unions.

To win back Communist support, Mr. Prodi promised to introduce a draft law in January to cut the working week to 35 hours from 40 by the year 2001. Unions and industrialists slammed the decision and will meet next week to decide how to fight the plan.

"It must be said that without the agreement of unions and employers a draft bill regarding industrial relations cannot be drawn up," Confindustria Chairman Giorgio Fossa said.

In an address to the lower house before Thursday's vote, Mr. Prodi appealed to the so-called social partners to keep an open mind and not block the plan out of hand.

"It doesn't make much sense for the social partners to take a prejudiced position," Mr. Prodi said.

Confindustria estimates the proposed cut to the working week will increase labour costs by about 10 per cent. Unionists said the plan was unconsidered and would add to labour tensions.

"It won't create jobs, but will spark numerous battles with employers. So we may have reached political peace but end up paying for it with social war," Pietro Larizza, head of the Italy's third largest union body, told La Stampa daily.

The compromise deal between Refoundation and Mr. Prodi, which is due to last until the end of 1998, was also ridiculed by opposition parties during Thursday's swift confidence debates.

Members of the separatist Northern League came to the senate dressed as clowns, wearing red noses, bow ties and bright red jackets, saying the whole crisis had been a farce, and "our senators have come dressed for the occasion," said the League leader in the Senate, Francesco Speroni. Another League member handed Mr. Prodi a bottle of soviet champagne.

The prime minister rejected suggestions that the showdown with the small Marxist Party, which is not an official coalition partner but provides essential parliamentary support for Mr. Prodi, had forced the government further to the left.

"We haven't changed our stance," he told parliament. Italy's financial markets were unmoved by the confidence votes, with the results seen as a foregone conclusion.

Irish teachers urged to drop 'mummy and daddy'

DUBLIN (R) — The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has urged teachers to drop "mummy and daddy" from their classroom vocabulary to recognise the growing number of one-parent families, the Irish Independent newspaper said Friday.

Instead, teachers should use phrases such as "the adults who live in your house" or "the people who look after you", the paper said.

The language was part of the church's new Irish religious education programme for four- to five-year-olds which was launched in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Thursday.

"Whereas in the past a family had a mummy and a daddy, now we don't say those kind of things," the paper quoted one of the organisers of the campaign as saying.

Taleban 'ready tc hold talks with opposition'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) —

Irish teachers urged to drop 'mummy and daddy'

Queen Elizabeth's blighted India tour nears end

COCHIN; India (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II, embarking on the final full day of her tainted state trip to India, visited the southern city of Cochin Friday.

The 71-year-old British monarch was due to visit the first European church to be built in India, as well as a synagogue and a commodity exchange.

The six-day royal tour, coinciding with India's 50th year of independence following the end of British colonial rule in 1947, ends Saturday.

A series of diplomatic rows and hiccups, relating to the two nations' present and past relationship, have overshadowed the entire trip.

Cochin in the state of Kerala, however, believed to be the site of the oldest European settlement founded in India, is associated more with Portuguese rather than British colonialism.

The queen, reunited with Prince Philip Friday after the royal couple followed separate itineraries in the south of the country, was expected to visit Saint Francis' Church.

The building, initially dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, was built by Portuguese Franciscan friars a few years after the arrival of explorer Vasco da Gama at Calicut, near Cochin, in 1498.

The queen was then due at Cochin's synagogue, built in 1568 by Jews believed to have arrived in India in AD 52. Six Jewish families still live in the city.

An international commodity exchange and a visit to a British-aided urban development project were also on the agenda, while the Duke of Edinburgh was to visit a newspaper and a British-aided home for street boys.

The royal couple will leave India Saturday. The queen's trip, her third state visit to India following those of 1961 and 1983, had begun badly when Britain reportedly offered to mediate over India's Kashmir dispute with Pakistan.

Media reports, later denied, said Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral accused Britain of interference and of being a "third-rate power."

Further spats emerged as Prince Philip was accused by Indian newspapers of being insensitive while visiting a massacre site of Indian civilians by British colonial troops. A speech due to be given by the queen at a banquet in Madras then had to be cancelled due to a mix-up over protocol.

Cochin, now a major port and the site of a naval base, has itself been the centre of a colonialism rumpus recently.

This time, however, the argument is whether the 500th anniversary of da Gama's arrival in India should be marked by celebrations next year.

Protesters are arguing that the arrival of da Gama, who died in Cochin in 1524, led to the colonisation of India by Europe and to centuries of oppression.

Palace, Downing St. try to limit Indian tour fiasco

LONDON (AFP) — Buckingham Palace and Downing Street embarked on a damage limitation exercise Friday to salvage something from Queen Elizabeth's visit to India, widely seen as a diplomatic fiasco.

In an unprecedented statement the palace denied reports that the queen was unhappy with the government's handling of the visit. It expressed support for Foreign Secretary Robin Cook who has been blamed for infuriating the Indians by offering London as a mediator in the Indo-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir.

The palace statement came shortly after Prime Minister Tony Blair ordered a counter-offensive in Britain to publicise the successes of the visits to India and Pakistan to counter the continuing controversy.

He is said to be worried that the war of words between Delhi and London is threatening to overshadow next week's Commonwealth conference in Edinburgh.

India has been claiming that the Labour government has a hidden agenda over Kashmir.

The palace said the queen was "entirely satisfied with the advice from the foreign secretary and his officials in the preparations leading up to the visit and during the visit itself."

She had "very much appreciated the warmth of the welcome she has received throughout the tour, which she is enjoying very much."

Mr. Cook, under attack from all sides, risked widening the political row over the affair when he suggested Friday that the timing of the tour was wrong. He told BBC Radio he had "inherited" the tour from the Conservatives and suggested it could have been arranged at "some moment other than the 50th anniversary of India's independence from Britain."

Indian government Minister Jayanthi Natarajan told the radio that although the state visit had been "successful from the queen's point of view," there was unhappiness about "certain avoidable remarks" attributed to Mr. Cook.

Conservatives have made political hay out of Mr. Cook's discomfort. Shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard accused Mr. Cook of damaging Britain's standing abroad. He said: "Never has a foreign secretary caused so much offence to so many people in such a short time."

Former Tory member of parliament Harry Greenway went further, declaring: "There is a feeling that the queen has been set up to annoy the Indians and that the British government has set out to diminish her. I would even go so far as to say that the government's dirty tricks department has been at work."

The queen's visit has been marred by a series of controversies, diplomatic gaffes and alleged protocol breaches which have turned what was meant to be the cementing of Anglo-Indian relations 50 years after the sub-continent won its independence from Britain, into a public relations nightmare.

A final snub came Thursday when India banned a speech the queen planned to give in Madras.

Palace officials maintain "nit-picking" has overshadowed the positive aspects of the tour and Mr. Cook described the Madras incident as a "storm in a toast teacup."

The queen was winding up her visit to India Friday with a trip to the southern city of Cochin.

An overview of the heavily fortified demilitarised zone which shows the South Korean barbed-wire fence at the bottom of the picture while a huge North Korean flag and the North Korean village of Kisongdong near the truce village of Panmunjom can be seen at the top of the picture (Reuter photo)

N. Korean guards abduct S. Koreans on tense border

SEOUL (R) — North Korean troops Friday abducted two South Korean farmers in the heavily fortified demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, the United Nations Command said in a statement.

U.N. Command spokesman Jim Coles told Reuters that North Korea has indicated to U.N. military officials that it would return the two farmers.

"It should be very quick," said Mr. Coles, adding several time frames had been discussed between North Korean army and U.N. officials at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Earlier, the U.N. Command issued a statement saying 12 armed North Korean soldiers "crossed the military demarcation line (MDL) and abducted two South Korean farmers in a rice field northeast of the village of Taesong-Dong, south of the MDL."

It said the North Korean soldiers took the two South Koreans — a man and a woman — to their side of the demarcation line, which bisects the DMZ.

The statement said there were no reports of gunfire by either side.

A spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defence said Seoul had demanded a "safe and speedy return of the abducted residents."

Yonhap television news reported the two abductees were 66-year-old Hong Sung-Soon and her 41-year-old son, Kim Young-Bok. Both were residents of Taesong-Dong, also known as "Freedom village", which has roughly 240 residents.

President Kim Young-Sam was briefed on the incident but has made no official comment, a presidential spokesman said.

"If the two residents are returned immediately there will be no problem. But if they are taken north, the situation could last quite a while," the presidential spokesman said.

Television news reports said five South Koreans were working in a rice field inside the DMZ. Two of them went into the hills to pick acorns when they were abducted by North Korean guards close to the demarcation line.

The line which can be blurred by bushes, divides the four-km-wide DMZ between North and South Korea.

Incidents on the border are not uncommon.

Last month a North Korean soldier, who crossed into the southern side of the DMZ was shot by South Korean border guards. In July, northern troops fired mortar shells at a southern guard post in one of the worst border clashes in several years.

The U.N. statement said Friday's incident was being investigated as an armistice violation.

Most of North Korea's 1.14 million strong army is deployed along the tense border dividing the two Koreas, which are technically still at war. The 1950-53 Korean war ended in an armistice rather than a peace agreement.

The area of the DMZ where the two were abducted is under the jurisdiction of the U.N. Command, which is led by the United States forces in Korea.

The DMZ is the last cold war frontier and probably the most heavily armed border in the world.

Japan's boy murderer sentenced

KOBE, Japan (R) — A 15-year-old boy whose brutal attacks on younger children — including beheading one of them — horrified Japan was sent Friday to a medical institution where he can be held until he is aged 26.

If still judged mentally unfit when he reaches the age of 26, the boy can be transferred to an adult mental institution.

The eagerly-awaited sentence by the Kobe Family Court ended one of Japan's most gruesome murder sagas which involved ritual killing of animals, satanic worship, violent videos and hatred of the country's rigid education system.

As well as decapitating 11-year-old Jun Hase, the boy, whose name was not released because he is a minor, also murdered a 10-year-old girl with a hammer and assaulted three other children in separate attacks in this western Japanese port city.

The reign of terror, which forced parents and teachers to escort pupils to and from school, started on Feb. 10 and did not end until the boy, then aged only 14, was arrested on June 28 when he confessed to the crimes.

Fear reached its height on May 27 when Hase's severed head was found at the gate of a junior high school with a note stuffed in his mouth saying the killing was to take revenge on Japan's education system.

Police investigations revealed that Hase was strangled three days earlier and the boy used a knife and handsaw to decapitate him, briefly keeping the head at his home overnight.

Judge Yasuhiro Igaki handed down the sentence, which could lead to the boy spending the rest of his life in mental institutions, at a closed-door session attended only by the boy, his parents, five defence lawyers, and court officials.

Outside the court, scores of Japanese media waited to give live reports of the sentencing.

There are four medical juvenile training schools in Japan each with about 100 minors. They are facilities for delinquent minors who need medical treatment, either mental or physical.

In a mental examination report submitted to the court, two psychiatrists said the boy had sadistic tendencies and recommended his detention in one of the facilities.

The search for the so-called "Kobe killer" set off one of Japan's biggest-ever manhunts complicated by taunts to police from the boy who wrote bizarre messages to local newspapers boasting he was "invisible" and would never be found.

After the beheading, the boy wrote in his diary Hase's killing was a "sacred rite" dedicated to an unknown god he called "Bamoidooki."

Suspicion fell on the boy when residents of his middle class neighbourhood reported to police that he had once beheaded a cat and strangled several pigeons.

In the boy's room, police found a stack of horror-movie videos and books on past murder cases, such as the U.S. serial killer of the 1960s nicknamed Zodiac killer, whose letters to police were mimicked in notes the killer sent to the media.

Rwanda tribunal indicts 2 more genocide suspects

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N.'s tribunal on the Rwanda genocide has indicted two more suspects including a former general in the Rwandan armed forces, a tribunal spokesman said Friday.

Former General Gratien Kabiligi and Aloys Ntabakuze, a former major and para-commando battalion commander, were detained in Nairobi in July and held at the tribunal's headquarters at Arusha, north Tanzania.

"They are jointly charged with genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity and with violations of Article three common to the Geneva conventions," said tribunal spokesman Bocar Sy. No date has been set for their next court appearance.

Judge Lennart Aspegren of Sweden, confirming the joint indictment Thursday, said there was sufficient evidence to provide reasonable grounds for believing the two men committed the crimes, a tribunal statement said.

Officials from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) working with Kenyan police in July arrested eight people wanted in connection with Rwanda's 1994 genocide of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Six of the eight were indicted by the court at the time of their arrest.

"Normally the procedures give the prosecutor a total of 90 days to present his indictment. Without indictment the person is a suspect, now they are accused and it is the indictment that changes their position," said Mr. Sy.

Gen. Kabiligi, 45, is alleged to have made anti-Tutsi statements and talked about the possibility of their elimination "within a short period of time" inciting extremist Interahamwe militiamen to kill, the statement said.

Mr. Ntabakuze, born in 1954, is alleged to have described Tutsis as the enemy and ordered subordinates to kill Tutsis in revenge for the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose plane was shot down on April 6 triggering the genocide.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan sacked two senior tribunal officials in January after the body was sharply criticised in an internal report for financial mismanagement, corruption and nepotism.

A total of 21 suspects are detained in Arusha while three more are held abroad, the tribunal said. Three trials have started. The court, whose maximum penalty is life imprisonment, has yet to complete a trial.

Motorola's lastest phones at unbelievably low prices.
Offer extended until October 31st ,1997.

Subscribe to Fastlink during this promotion and get the following services free for one month:
• CLI.
• Call Waiting.
• Detailed Billing.

Shops open daily from 8 AM until 6 PM except Fridays.

For more information call us at
Amman-863750,Tayebat Village-770770, Aqaba-03-322557,
Irbid-02-251691 or dial 111 on your mobile.

GSM MOTOROLA

Fastlink
Jordan Mobile Telephone Services

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: **684311, 699634**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **696183**

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Hamas in throes of peace

THE FALLOUT from the release of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin from an Israeli jail in the wake of the foiled attempt on the life of the Movement's Politburo Chief Khalid Misha'al last month continues to resonate across religious and political lines. There is no doubt that Hamas emerged triumphant from the botched attempt, which was carried out by a group of Mossad agents, with its political fortunes dramatically increased on both the Palestinian and Israeli fronts. The image of Hamas was greatly transformed from that terrorist group to a party that is seeking justice for its own people and peace with the Israelis at an acceptable price.

It was Misha'al himself who first hinted, in the aftermath of the attempt on his life, that an Israeli-Hamas dialogue was not beyond the realm of the possible provided Israel took bold measures to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people on their soil and stopped its unilateral actions to predetermine the future of the occupied territories. Sheikh Yassin even went further by drawing a framework for eventual coexistence between Jews and Muslims, where they could live in peace and harmony side-by-side.

The olive branch that Hamas has extended to Israel took a vivid expression when its Islamist leaders informed His Majesty King Hussein of their willingness to declare an effective ceasefire with Israel and called on him to pass this offer to Israel. The chain of events came to a head when Sheikh Yassin received in his Gaza base Sephardic Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron and Rabbi Menachem Froman of Tekoa and discussed with them inter-faith understanding between the two faiths.

Of course all sides agree that in order for peace to take roots in the Middle East, it must be founded, inter alia, on inter-religious tolerance if not outright inter-religious understanding. There is also no hope of ever establishing a culture of peace in the minds and hearts of Arabs and Jews unless the religious dimension is duly noted and respected. Hamas and Israeli religious leaders have taken the first critical step and may well be heading towards meeting that objective. If Hamas succeeds in establishing a footstep in the Israeli body politic, it would prove to be a breakthrough that could contribute greatly to Arab-Israeli peace.

The fact that Sheikh Yassin has pledged to seek and work out a rapprochement with Israeli and Jewish leaders through the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) promises to reduce rivalry and friction between the PNA and Hamas to a minimum. In actual terms, both Hamas and the PNA can lend support to each other's quest for justice, peace and coexistence. After all both parties are integral parts of the Palestinian nation which is unanimous on attaining full recognition, sovereignty and independence in the West Bank and Gaza.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Sultan Hattab said that despite the boycott of some opposition groups the general elections will take place next month on schedule and most probably the majority of eligible voters will turn out to cast ballots. Remarks heard here and there by some people accusing the government in advance of staging the elections and claiming that the next parliament would be weak and would not be able to oppose any government policies or air its view on different issues are not heeded by the Jordanian public which is determined to create a parliament that would contribute to the country's development in the coming century, said the writer. He said the Jordanian people have a responsibility to choose the best and most eligible candidates to represent them in over the next four years, and it is therefore important for the Jordanians not only to take part in voting but also to elect those who are worthy of their trust and who can help Jordan deal with the challenges in the coming century.

Arab Al Yawm's Taher Adwan said that because Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu defended the Mossad agents' act in Amman and issued further threats at his press conference upon their return to Israel, Jordanians have every reason to be on their guard for more similar attacks. Netanyahu has threatened to strike at what he called any place harbouring terrorists, and therefore he is likely to send Mossad agents with chemical weapons to repeat their attacks in the streets of Amman or other parts of the Arab World, said the writer. The government did well in ordering the expulsion of Mossad agents from the Israeli embassy in Amman but should have ascertained whether those to be expelled have taken part in the attack on Hamas official Khaled Misha'al along with the other two who were caught in the act, he said. The government should have also pursued this matter at the international level, lodging a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against Israel's use of chemical weapons for assassination attempts abroad, Adwan said. Jordan, he said, should not close the Misha'al file but should pursue all efforts that would fend off further danger to this country.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Opposition candidates exercise democratic rights

AS ELECTION day draws nears, indications are stronger that contrary to pessimist predictions of boycotts, every party will be taking part in the polls, directly and indirectly.

Whether they admit it in public or otherwise, several major groups in Jordan which have been "threatening" to boycott the polls have slowly entered the arena. These include the Baath nationalists, communists and centrists as well as Islamists.

No one can deny that the decision by some former members of the Islamist parliamentary bloc, including Abdullah Akaileh, Fayez Rabieh, Ali Fakir, Ahmad Kassasbeh, and Mohammad Khreibat Azaideh, to run in the elections indicates a clear dent in the self-assumed "hardline" position adopted by the mainstream Islamic movement in the country.

The participation of these prominent members of the movement means that the Islamists are indeed participating in the elections. Of course, there could be counter arguments that the mainstream Islamist Action Front (IAF) is staying away from the elections no matter what. But can the party deny that it would seek to play a legislative role, albeit by proxy, if and when these candidates win the elections?

Having said that, however, what we Jordanians need is not only the participation of Islamists in the elections but the victory of some of them to strike a balance in the make-up of our next Parliament.

The decision to run by some members does indicate a crack in the Islamist movement. The group's leaders should be gratified that there are among them people who have really understood and accepted the concept of democracy. Staying away from elections is not part of democratic life, which calls for strong participation by everyone concerned with the future of the country and society.

A simple declaration of a boycott of elections borders on a public disavowal of any interest in the country's affairs regardless of the given reasons.

For one thing, the Islamists who base their "boycott" of the elections on Jordan's firm commitment to the peace treaty with Israel seem not to have appreciated the fact that it is up to them to muster a majority and try to fight the peace treaty from within Parliament. If they are unable to gain a majority among the elected representatives of the people, then that simply belies their claim that a majority of Jordanians oppose the state of peace with Israel.

For another, if the Islamists are committed and dedicated to preserving the freedom of the media as they repeatedly affirm in the context of the amendments to the Press and Publications Law, then they should also appreciate that their declared objective of reversing the amendments cannot be achieved without majority clout in the legislature in line with our Constitution. As such, by staying away from the polls, the Islamists are sending a message to their electorate that they have thrown in the towel.

Finally, we come to the Islamists vehement rejection of the one-person, one-vote formula. They argue that the formula is undemocratic. Now, this is an interesting aspect that the Islamists have made the mistake of embracing. Let us look at the advanced democracies in the West, and if the West cannot serve as an example as far as the Islamists are concerned, let us turn east and take an Asian country, India — the largest democracy in the world — as an example.

India today has more than 500 million eligible voters. But everyone of them has the right to only one vote for the central parliament and another vote for the state legislature. And India's experience so far clearly demonstrates that the country is indeed truly democratic. How else could anyone explain the ongoing trial of a former prime minister and hundreds of former ministers and senior officials on charges of corruption?

There are dozens of examples that clearly show that the one-person, one-vote concept is the bedrock of any true democracy. And if the Islamists are fighting the concept, then there is something clearly wrong in their own perceptions of democracy. For the last three years, we have heard consecutive governments offering dialogue with the Islamists on all issues related to elections except the one-person, one-vote concept and formula, and we also heard Islamist rejections of the offer every time.

Quite simply, the Islamists' stand rings hollow when viewed in light of logic and universal practices.

On the other hand, however, we cannot but rule out the possibility that the participation of Islamist candidates as independents in the elections is a clever camouflage that might last only until election day. When results are pronounced, we could find a dozen or so springing up and declaring allegiance to the mainstream Islamist political party in the country.

We cannot but welcome such a development, if indeed that is the case, because what we need is the presence of every political colour and ideology in our legislature. And only those with strong convictions can hope to achieve anything in terms of our immediate and pressing objective of improving the lot of Jordanians in terms of standard of living and the elimination of poverty from our midst.

A western Christian force encourages Zionism as a means to fulfilling a prophecy

By Pascal B. Karmy

AMONG THE reasons that the the U.S. and Europe have for supporting the furtherance of Zionism is one that may escape many. Some of the Christian sects, particularly the Evangelicals, believe that the return of the Jews to Palestine will augur well for the second coming of Christ and the consequent conversion of the Jews to Christianity. This belief is obviously wrong from the point of view of the Christian religion as it has no bases whatsoever in the Christian faith and doctrine. Nevertheless the Zionist Jews were clever and shrewd enough in propagating this belief so as to achieve their ultimate purpose, the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

This belief is embraced particularly by the Evangelical Christians who are more Zionist than the Zionists themselves and who support Israel under the belief that the return of the Jews to Palestine is a biblical prophecy. In a book entitled "America's Evangelicals — More Zionist than the Zionists," the author, William Clairborne, states the following: "Estimated at 40 million members and embracing Abraham's Covenant as fervently as the most impassioned Zionists, their burgeoning Evangelical Christian movement in the United States is fast becoming one of Israel's potent allies in the conflict with the Arab World. They issue warnings with beatific certainty that a great conflagration with the Soviet Union in the Middle East is a biblical prophecy and promise that the United States will come to Israel's rescue." Of course, nothing of that alleged prophecy has been realised as the Soviet Union collapsed without any conflagration.

Some naive Evangelicals have actually opened what is called a "Christian Embassy" in Jerusalem with the preposterous purpose of converting Jews to Christianity and thus hasten the second coming of Christ.

There are thousands of Christian churches and communities, however, who reject the mythical belief of those Evangelicals. In effect, an ecumenical group of Christians — including Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox — met in Illinois in 1979 and 1981 and issued two declarations called the "Lagrange Declarations."

The first declaration contained in part the following: "We are anguished by the fact that countless Christians believe that the Bible gives to the modern state of Israel a divine right, divine sanction to the state of Israel's policy of territorial acquisition. We believe that such an understanding must be judged in the light of the whole Biblical Revolution affirming that in the revelation of Jesus Christ, God's Covenants find their completion." The declaration goes on to state: "Forthrightly, we declare our conviction that, in the process of establishing the state of Israel a deep injustice was done to the Palestinian people: confiscating their land and driving many into exile and even death. We are further grieved by the ongoing denial of basic civil rights of those Arabs who live today in the state of Israel."

The Second Lagrange Declaration of 1981 stated in part: "We question biblically the vision of nationalism and statehood limited to particular people as the means for building a durable and just peace in the Holy Land. We long rather for the vision of the land and peoplehood secured for both Israeli people and the Palestinian people in the Holy Land. We question how Christians can believe that the Old Testament gives the modern state of Israel divine and unconditional ownership of the land of Palestine, to the exclusion of the indigenous people. We believe that an honest, open and comprehensive understanding of the Bible prohibits these claims and raises the priority of God's justice for all peoples as the means to nourish the hope of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians."

Mr. Colin Chapman, a member of the Episcopal Church, impugns in his book "Whose Promised Land," the alleged prophecy about the return of the Jews to Palestine. He says: "That any Christian who is concerned with the problem of the land of Palestine, should demonstrate his concern by doing all he can to find out the truth about the land, that we have no right to turn to the Bible for guidance if we do not know the whys and wherefores of the return of the Jews to the land and the establishment of the state of Israel, or if we have been fed by a very one-sided version of what happened." Mr. Chapman even questions whether the Jews believing in the prophecy have acted according to the law by asking about how the Jews have acquired the land and how they have treated the Arabs; how much of the land has been acquired illegally by being stolen, confiscated or expropriated. "And are the Jews treating the Arabs as if they are their own native-born, or are they oppressing them and ill-treating them."

As a Christian, Chapman feels that he is bound to conclude that the promise of the land to Abraham and his descendants does not give the Jews a divine right to possess the land for all times. The author does not believe that the state of Israel is of God in the sense that it is the fulfillment (or even a preliminary stage of fulfillment) of all that God promised and predicted in the Old Testament about the future of the land and its people. For a Christian to interpret these events simply as the fulfillment of prophecy represents a kind of regression which constitutes a return to a way of thinking which the disciples of Christ had abandoned once and for all when they grasped the kind of spiritual kingdom which Christ had inaugurated through his death and resurrection.

It is indeed some consolation for the Palestinians to know that the participants in the Lagrange Declarations have unequivocally urged the United States to curtail subsidies to the government of Israel until the latter ceases all illegal seizures of property, establishment of settlements on Palestinian land and expulsion of Palestinians. It is a consolation also to find that there are unbiased and courageous Americans who forthrightly reject the myth of the promised land to the Jews notwithstanding the nefarious influence of some of the American Jews and particularly of the powerful lobby — the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

THE WEEK IN PRINT

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE ELECTION campaign in Jordan, domestic issues, repercussions of Israel's assassination attempt on Hammas official Khaled Misha'al as well as pan-Arab issues last week dominated the op/ed pages of the local dailies.

In Al Ra'i, Tareq Masarweh criticised the government's removal of campaign banners that referred to Israel as the Zionist enemy. The Constitution guarantees the right to free expression regardless of any treaty or agreement with other countries, Masaarweh said. He said, the treaty signed between Jordan and Israel in Wadi Arabia can by no means deny the Jordanian people the right to express their views freely. If Jordanians should not refer to Israel as an enemy, then at least 10 Israeli political parties ought to change their ideology and their logos which openly consider all Arabs enemies and do not conceal their ambitious designs of occupying Arab land, Masarweh said.

Nazih Qousus of Al Dustour demanded that candidates running in the elections next month meet requirements other than those stipulated by the Ministry of Interior. "We need to see intellectual and cultured people representing us in Parliament, deputies who realise the ills of their country and the needs of their people, and have the courage not only in taking part in debates, but also in improving the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country," Qousus said. He said, it is not necessary that a candidate be a university graduate but at least should have acquired sufficient experience and education and should be able to defend the public's interests. The writer said Jordanians do not want deputies who act only in the interests of their own districts but rather deputies who can address issues of national concern, including foreign relations.

According to Al Ra'i's Fakhri Kawar, candidates with more wealth are the ones with a better chance of winning in next month's general elections. Candidates who can afford to put up banners on every street and place campaign advertisements on television and radio, said Kawar, are in a position to air their views and present their programmes to the public, unlike many other contenders who cannot afford such luxuries. It would have been a realistic and acceptable situation had the radio and television media allowed all candidates to use their facilities free of charge, he said. By allowing only those who can afford the cost of messages to advertise, said the writer, Jordan Radio and Television is treating campaign messages like any other advertisements about food, sweets, shoes, perfumes and the numerous other items that are commercially promoted day and night.

Addressing the possession of large amounts of fire arms by individuals, especially from the tribes, Mohammad Subeihi of Arab Al Yawm said the automatic weapons which these people have are not intended to fight a war in defence of Jordan but rather to be used on social occasions. These dangerous weapons are also used by criminals and by revenge seekers, a phenomenon that poses a constant danger to the public, said the writer. Sophisticated weapons which were confiscated from smugglers recently were definitely brought into the country for evil purposes, and thus encourage the public to believe that Jordan is in danger or it is targeted by internal as well as external enemies, he added. Recalling that firearms have killed and maimed scores of people during weddings and other celebratory occasions, the writer demanded that strict penalties be imposed on those who possess unlicensed weapons, those who possess or use automatic weapons and those who smuggle fire arms into the country.

Mohammad Daoud a writer for Al Dustour daily discussed privatisation in Jordan noting that the government seems to be taking speedy measures to privatise most of its institutions. But the writer said that the government seems at the same time holding on to its shares in local dailies obviously in a bid to control the media and restrict free expression. It is unacceptable to see the government holding on to its shares in only two of the local dailies and no others, and there is no justification for retaining its shares in the media at large because this is in contravention of the law and conflicting with the government's own ideas of privatisation, stressed the writer. He said the time has come for the government to take measures without any delay to end its partnership in the press by selling its shares and utilising the money in development schemes.

Writng about the Khaled Misha'al case, Arab Al Yawm's Mohammad Subeihi, said those who dream of peace with Israel and those deceived by the Israeli claims about their desire to live in peace with the Arabs can no longer convince the public of their ideas. "We want those who are deceived by the so-called new world order and U.N. resolutions to realise that there can be no peaceful coexistence among the children of Abraham, and no one can convince the Jordanians from now on of the idea that Israel's dream of creating a substitute Palestinian homeland in Jordan has been buried forever," said Subeihi. He said that only through Jordan's intrinsic force and national unity and affiliation to and close cooperation with the other Arab countries can the Kingdom ensure its security.

Another Arab Al Yawm writer, Khaled Zubeidi, said the private sector's apprehensions about the danger inherent in Israel's ambitions are justified because the Jewish state seeks normalisation with the Arabs in order to impose hegemony on their wealth and their economy. The private sector is right to warn against the dangers of the Doha economic meeting and its call for boycotting the parley next month because Israel plans to attend. There can be no benefit of such a meeting at a time when we see Israel banning the Palestinians from trading with the Arab World, imposing occupation on them, and repressing the Arab inhabitants under Israel's rule, he said. The writer referred to the Arab economic meetings, plans for an Arab common market and bilateral accords among the Arab states on promoting economic cooperation as the best means for protecting and promoting the Arab national economy.

Writing about Iraq, Marwan Hazine of Arab Al Yawm said a ray of hope for an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people is in the offing now that Syria and Iraq have decided to mend fences and start close cooperation in trade and economic fields. Hazine said Damascus and Baghdad have finally decided to close ranks in light of Turkey's constant threats to the two Arab countries, threats from Israel and the U.S.'s foreign ambitions in Arab territory. He said these dangers should also encourage the Arab Gulf countries towards transcending their differences with Iraq and ending the embargo which has ruined the Iraqi nation and impoverished its people. Syria and Iraq are not the only two Arab countries exposed to threats and U.S.-Israeli domination, therefore all efforts should be made to reconcile Arab states and secure backing for a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement to fend off the dangers posed to the nation, Hazine said.

World Bank strategy targets corruption, environment and institution building

WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION is a symptom that the state is functioning poorly, and ineffective states can retard and misdirect economic growth, according to Susan Rose-Ackerman of Yale Law School. Corruption is a particular problem in poor countries. Even with reform-minded rulers, poverty limits the options for reform of public institutions and government policies. The World Bank can assist reform programmes, but only if the country's political leaders are willing to bear the cost of change by reducing incentives for payoffs, establishing credible law enforcement, reforming the civil service and increasing the government's accountability.

For its part, the World Bank can help by making it clear in its grants and loans that corruption will not be accepted as normal. Furthermore, the bank must move to cancel projects in which corruption is uncovered or cost overruns suggest that venality or incompetence is pervasive. Helping countries develop anticorruption strategies can both improve the legitimacy and effectiveness of governments and aid development by making it easier to target projects to overcome poverty and facilitate shared growth, said Rose-Ackerman.

Corruption is particularly pernicious when it is entrenched, according to Michael Johnston of Colgate University. Citizens and investors see corruption as inevitable and efforts to fight it as futile. Johnston suggested that entrenched corruption embodies a kind of equilibrium. By altering the political and economic environment, however, it is possible to shift towards low corruption, higher-growth equilibria that benefit from and help sustain accountable politics and administration. Aid agencies are well placed to help with this transition process, using their resources, staff and knowledge of the countries in question.

Good policies and institutions essential

Most of the high-flying East Asian economies passed through two similar stages of development, explained Takatoshi Ito of Hitotsubashi University. In the first stage, the economy "takes off" from a stagnant state. Accelerating growth is accompanied by structural changes: resources shift from agriculture to simple manufacturing and then to more sophisticated manufacturing. In the second stage, as the share of manufacturing hits a plateau and the technological gap narrows, growth slows.

Countries wishing to emulate the East Asian example need to pay more attention to the initial stage, Ito said. It is natural for a low-income economy to grow fast, but only if the conditions are right for take-off — that is, if the basic infrastructure and macroeconomic fundamentals are in place. Maintaining social and political stability is also important in this first stage.

Institutional quality — measured by bureaucratic efficiency, degree of corruption, protection of property rights and the rule of law — is important for growth, according to Alberto Alesina of Harvard University.

Recent studies have shown that government consumption, often supported by foreign aid, has no positive effect on growth and can be seriously harmful in countries in which a large government sector coexists with poor institutions. In addition, government consumption does not appear to have a positive effect on improving social indicators and reducing poverty and income inequality, particularly in countries with poorly developed institutions.

Because foreign aid typically increases government consumption, especially in countries with poor institutions, Alesina suggested that the international community in general, and the World Bank in particular, rethink conditionality. Financial assistance should be withdrawn from countries that do not satisfy minimum standards of institutional quality. The World Bank should provide technical assistance for institution building, however.

Poverty and environment

In developing countries, environmental resources are used mainly as input in household production or in small-scale production units, according to Kärl-Goran Mäler of the Beijer Institute and Stockholm School of Economics. Thus, they are of substantial value, particularly since they may be essential for survival. Any degradation of the resource base will greatly affect the population, and maintenance of it is thus critical for economic development.

Although it is difficult to understand the interactions between economic and ecological systems, Mäler said that developing countries can take certain actions to alleviate poverty while protecting the environment, such as introducing well-defined property rights and establishing markets — particularly capital and insurance markets — wherever they support better management of environmental resources.

In agrarian communities, increasing population density can set in motion a virtuous cycle of increased income and environmental sustainability, or a cumulative, mutually reinforcing process of ecological disaster and massive poverty, according to Ramón López of the University of Maryland.

The goals of increased rural income and a stable and healthy natural resource base, López suggested, are more likely to be achieved in communities that have a resilient environmental base, where a culture of cooperation and partial exclusive rights existed prior to population expansion, and where population expands at a gradual rather than an explosive pace. Specific recommendations to national authorities and technical advisers for achieving this goal include:

— supporting the institutional conditions of agrarian communities — for example, by providing legal titles to land and other resources to communities or individuals;

— identifying areas that are environmentally vulnerable and concentrating extension services, supportive infrastructure, and credit in these areas; and

— focusing land reform in areas where access by the poor is particularly restricted and where there are large private landholdings in the surrounding areas.

IMF Survey

Jordan's hidden resource could prove boom for tourism

By Richard Tanner

WHAT IS Jordan's greatest resource? If its neither her people nor her limited but useful farmland, nor even mineral deposits like phosphate, then surely its her archaeological storehouse. So what are schools doing to induct the young into their cultural heritage and for them to participate in the development of what could be our top income earner: Tourism?

Have no doubt of the richness of this heritage. Going to work each day, I pass an Iron Age fort, sadly neglected, on Gardens Street, a Byzantine monastic hillside, now built over, at Khilda and old terraces, which may pre-date the Nabateans, now being ploughed again for the first time in perhaps 1200 years. And that's in 15 minutes.

Last weekend, I found the fine Roman mausoleum of Nuweijis and the world's earliest town (perhaps) at 'Ain Ghazal, both on the northern edge of Amman, ten minutes' drive from the centre, and it's taken me five years to get to them. Do the children who live near these sites know what treasures lie in their backyards? Who's encouraging them to study and look after these sites? If there's no-one, then expect these remnants of the past to follow the propylaeum and the Umayyad mosque, Asbali bridge and the stone houses of downtown Amman into oblivion.

Amman is one of the world's truly ancient cities, fairly continuously occupied from 2000 BC to 1000 AD, then slowly abandoned until this century. That abandonment has preserved as ruins much from our Umayyad, Byzantine-Roman and Ammonite past, ruins that are so common that we take them for granted. And take them we do, stone by stone for usually interior new building, and artefacts to decorate our homes or to sell illegally abroad.

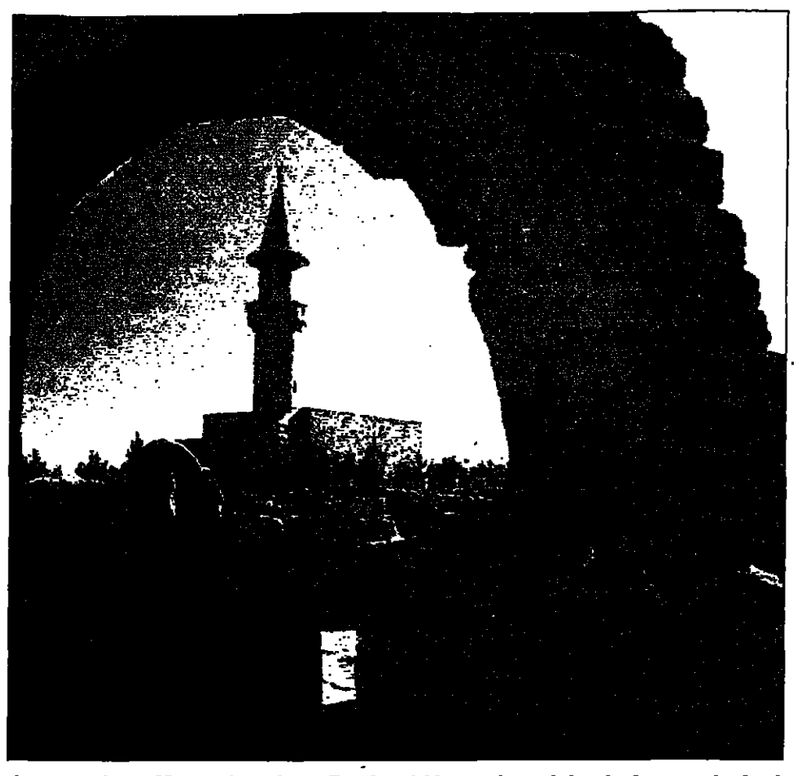
Yet abundance is extremely rare. N. Europe, N. Asia and N. America have nothing like it, nor sub-Saharan Africa and Australia. Only around the Mediterranean and in Egypt, through Persia into India and E. China did comparable civilisations leave ruin upon ruin. At the crossroads between Greece and Turkey, Egypt and Persia, we've had them all pass through. Dig on any hill along the Kings Highway, in any valley meeting the Jordan Valley — Dead Sea — Wadi Arabi rift, and you'll find something two or three thousand years old. If this shows where we came from, we should all know about these symbols of our cultural heritage; if it has the potential to attract millions of tourists, we should preseve our treasure.

Of course children learn about the major sites from their textbooks and may be lucky enough to visit some places. But I advocate a more involved approach, hands-on primary experience. We could start by asking all schools to log all "remains" in their local area. Once identified, the more interesting sites could be "adopted" by schools nearby. Students could record "their" site in drawings and photographs, label and protect it and maybe produce a simple guide. "Real" work will enthuse children as my Al Qalaa' project proved.

This project took eight Thursday mornings. A group of 15-year-olds, working to fulfil requirements for the International Baccalaureate diploma and Crown Prince Awards, produced a brochure for tourists. Week one, we talked about what we should do, studied nearby countries' site brochures and made a plan. Week two, we visited Al Qalaa' — the Citadel in downtown Amman — to survey and photograph it; only two of the group had ever visited this magnificent site, and only to the Roman Temple side and the museum. Walking the whole area, they were excited by the scale of the project and astounded by the Umayyad "Assembly Hall." Their enthusiasm drove them to research and write (week three), then divide into artists, designers and writers to photo and draw, plan the walking trail and describe each stop respectively (week four). Week five saw the first draft pasted up before the second visit to see if it worked (week six). In week seven, the students completed the second draft and took it to the Department of Antiquities for Dr. Fawzi Zayadine's expert revision. For our final session, we went to the beautiful Abila site to put our newfound archaeological skills into practice, identifying Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine remains on that pristine site.

When the ministry printed the leaflet some months later, the students were absolutely thrilled to receive copies. Their work had purpose; they had achieved. Couldn't the students of Hisban and Madaba, of Karak and Tafileh, of Sahab and Ras Al Ain, of Deir Alla and Safi, and of all the other wonderful places in Jordan, couldn't they be invited to produce site or town trails?

For our youngsters to understand the rich legacy of the past needs a concerted effort. All the major players need to contribute. The Department of Antiquities could commission projects like Al Qalaa' across the country. It has masses of photographs, records and artefacts which could be made into sets for schools to borrow and use. You understand how sites are dated if you handle the pottery sherds from different periods.



A scene from Muta, site of the Battle of Muta where Islamic forces clashed with the armies of Byzantium (file photo)

The Ministry of Education, local writers and readers should get together to produce teaching materials, programmes and kits, and courses to use and develop these, enabling teachers to bring alive the history and culture of Jordan.

Archaeologists from our universities and from overseas shoud provide information about digs, speakers and guides, surplus artefacts and advice, bringing their work alive to others as the "bones" lady at Lot's Cave did for me. As most of the active digs are in rural areas, rural schools would for once be at the forefront. Students from Yarmouk and Jordan Universities could show children round their museums, and help them set up school or local museums.

Friends of Archaeology (FoA) could expand their activities to include serving schools. These would need to contribute as school members, but for relatively modest fees, FoA believes it can provide a service. If schools feel they would like help with designing materials, making visits, running clubs, networking people who can help or training teachers, please contact FoA (Samaa Abu Sharar, 696682) or the writer.

Finally, if you want to see what's on offer, why not join me on Friday 7 November for a day's activity where parents, teachers and children can work together to try to calculate how many people lived in Pella. See you there.

The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is now teaching at Amman Baccalaureate School. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

The unspoiled island paradise that inspired the classic 'utopia'

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, Brazil — A dinghy drifts outside the bay of dolphins in the cool mauve of dawn. Three tourists sit on the bow, waiting for the spectacle to begin.

Before the sun rises to burn the sky, 700 spinner dolphins will return to this protected cove to socialise, nurse their young, and have plenty of sex after 14 hours of hunting in the deep Atlantic south of this archipelago.

Carlos, a fisherman, has brought the tourists to this place, one touched by the whispering trades, the dancing rain and little else.

As the Earth's virgin places disappear one by one, there is almost nowhere left outside of Antarctica where nature is truly as it always was.

Jumbo jets whisk U.S. to islands once considered remote. Developers spread asphalt over swamps. Hotels sprout like asparagus on beaches once ruled by crabs.

But there is Fernando de Noronha, a watchband of islands in the middle of the Atlantic, where fate, luck and politics have come together to preserve a timeless jewel.

This is why they have come, these three who bob in a paint-peeled boat. Leeward, several hundred metres away, foam is blowing off the tops of a line of waves. No, wait. Those aren't waves. They're dorsal fins.

The tourists tumble into the gin-clear water. Twenty metres below them, the bottom pulses, a living quilt of neon yellow, orange, red and purple sponges and coral.

First come those heart-jolting sounds — the high-pitched squeals and clicks of dolphin sonar. The dolphins are closing fast as sailplanes. Dozens, no, hundreds, sweep by in unison.

A few shift into neutral to inspect the interlopers, these humans who look so clumsy in the water, so absurd in phosphorescent-yellow flippers and goggles.

A baby female with a white horizontal stripe peers quizzically into the goggles. Then she's off, like a torpedo.

Each morning, the leaping, spinning dolphins return as surely as the tide, oblivious to the knots of tourists who ooob and aaah from scattered boats and cathedral-like cliffs.

The spinners are no circus act. They are the last pint of nature's blood, still beating wild in its heart.

This is the national marine park of Fernando de Noronha, an 180-square-kilometre area encompassing 20 islands and islets 550 kilometres off Brazil's northeastern nose.

The waters around Noronha are so rich that biologists can't yet name all of the varieties of sea life they hold. There are endangered sea turtles, octopuses, 90-kilogramme grandfather jewfish, roughneck grunts, crevalle jacks and at least 14 different species of shark.

The sanctuary survives because of its remote, open-ocean location and because of an environmental programme with some of the strictest controls over humans anywhere in the world.

"Ours is the island of the forbidden," says Rosemary da Silva Arrida, 21, one of the archipelago's 2,000 residents. And then she giggles: "But that's all right. It's a beautiful thing we are doing."

As the Earth's virgin places disappear one by one, there is almost nowhere left outside of Antarctica where nature is truly as it always was.

The guardian of these islands in the rough is Ibama, the federal environmental protection agency that administers Brazil's national parks.

Ibama allows no more than 420 tourists on the archipelago at a time, and outsiders are not allowed to work here. Only two twin-engine planes arrive each day from the mainland, bringing no more than 25 passengers.

To discourage long stays, Ibama charges an "ecological tax" that rises exponentially by the day. For three nights, the tax is $18 a person; for six nights, $50, for a month, $1,800.

For Noronha's residents, environmental approval is needed for almost everything. All property on the island belongs to the federal government, and any construction — even adding a porch or an outhouse — is forbidden.

So is hunting, logging, littering, campfires and remaining on any of the island's 16 beaches after 6 p.m.. Fishing is permitted only outside the marine park, where Atlantic waters are deeper than 50 meters.

Violators lose their boats and equipment and face thousands of dollars in fines. As a warning, seized equipment is put on public display.

Is all this enough to keep Noronha from becoming another club Med? Will the success of this environmental programme be its worst enemy and attract too many tourists?

Ze Gaudencio, Ibama's director on the archipelago, ponders the question while watching night fall on Sancho beach.

"This cannot die," he says. "If the wildness of Noronha dies, something pure and wild inside of us will die along with it."

This archipelago may be a paradise, but not for comfort creatures.

There is practically no place to eat out, no mall, no theatres, no boutiques, no pubs, and only one hotel — a converted World War II quonset hut that swelters on a good day.

Forget the golf clubs, water skis, and tennis rackets. And don't plan on finding any games of chance.

There are two public telephones and only six lines to the outside world. Mail can take weeks. Freight makes all "imports" expensive, from the $2 can of Coke to the $12 roll of film.

There are no cars, and no one misses them. Where would one go in a Mercedes?

There is no autobahn to Lion Beach, where waves of white gold burst into clouds of mist on the reefs. There is no expressway to Caracas point, where frigate birds dive into the waves and then rise into the wind with sardines twitching in their beaks. There is no road to Ponta da Sapata, where granite spires are chiselled by the wind.

"On the mainland you are what you have," says Edilene Francisco da Silva, 20. "Here on Noronha, you don't need things to be someone. You are what is inside of you. When you learn this, you find peace."

Noronha isn't just a utopia. It is the utopia.

The islands were discovered in 1503 by Amerigo Vespucci, the Genovese sailor and map maker who gave the new world his name. It was Vespucci's account of Noronha that inspired Thomas More to write his classic book, "Utopia," a plan for a perfect socialist state set on a remote island.

The Portuguese colonials had something else in mind for Noronha. For more than 200 years, it was the site of Forte de Remedios prison, where dark, brick, cells were so small and narrow that they had to be entered backward and where, at times, punishments included 100 lashes or death at the bottom of a pit of hungry sharks. The prison didn't close until World War II, when Noronha became an airbase for American warplanes en route to Africa.

Brazil's armed forces maintained a base there until 1987, finally pulling out and leaving behind one potholed road, 150 dilapidated barracks, and a paradise of silvery waterfalls, crescent bays and sand as white as flour.

"It was sort of like waking up in Eden," says Fabio Souza Carnacao, 24, a scuba-diving instructor. "The question was, what were we supposed to do with paradise?"

The Odebrecht construction company and Brazil's biggest banks had an idea: turn Noronha into a resort complete with posh hotels, sushi restaurants, yacht club, and golf course.

Environmentalists and scientists in Brazil, Canada, the United States and Great Britain had another idea.

Brazilians Russell Coffin and Jose Truda Palazzo led a movement at home to petition the government, while Canadian photographer Guy Pelland and Jack McKenney drew worldwide attention to the archipelago's uniqueness with the film "Bay of Dolphins."

On Sept. 14, 1988, President Jose Sarney ended the tug-of-war with the stroke of a pen, signing a decree that transformed Noronha into a national park.

"Noronha has been in a 500-year time warp," Mr. Palazzo says. "To turn it now into one more playground for the rich — now, that would be cause for 100 lashes."

The tourists peer through their masks as Fabio, the divemaster, leads them into a weightless world. Wrapped in blue light, swept by a sense of vertigo, they fall without end, displaced in time. Shafts of sun come over their shoulders and spear the depths.

Above, French angelfish chase the intruders' air bubbles to the surface. Below, the current pushes a broth of microscopic life over hills of sugary sand, over hydroids white as bone, over the blinking eyes of octopuses.

The tourists hover, watching schools of surgeonfish gather, dissolve and regather into a formation that looks like one big fish — a ploy to confuse predators.

Suddenly, the bottom falls 10 meters. Thrilled, terrified, the divers soar over the abyss. This must be what it means to fly.

Scarlet tube sponges wave, hairlets of coral quiver, tiny wrasses peer from holes like residents of a high-rise. A silvery swarm of roughneck grunts converges on the tourists as if they are lumps of rock. A wall of mutton snapper, skyblue with yellow stripes, glide among them.

A 3-metre nurse shark snoozes; a sharp-tail eel hunts for sleeping fish; a starry moray and her children ripple their slick, freckled bodies as they cruise in unison. A wrasse delicately picks parasites from a barracuda with its jagged, white teeth.

A green turtle, big as a buick, sneaks up from behind to watch the tourists watch the fish.

Earlier, before the dive, Fabio's boat swayed easily in the lee of Rat Island. The plan was to go down 34 metres on the archipelago's open-ocean side. It was a risky dive for these beginners.

Fabio stepped off the boat and splashed into the turquoise water.

"Ready?" he asked the others. "Then let's go say hello to God."

'Lifelong learning' vital to jobless battle, OECD says

OECD ministers call for special initiative on youth unemployment

PARIS (AFP) — Labour ministers of the industrialised countries have called for a "special initiative" to tackle the problem of high youth unemployment.

"Ministers were particularly concerned about persistently high levels of youth unemployment in many OECD countries," the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a communique after a two-day meeting of labour ministers here.

"It is vital to reverse this situation for reasons of social cohesion and equity and because young people represent 'an investment for the future,'" the statement said.

"Ministers recommended that a specific initiative focusing on youth unemployment should be developed" and asked the OECD to attach high priority to identifying the most effective policies for governments to combat the problem.

The OECD meeting agreed on three "promising avenues for action" to combat unemployment: improving work and training incentives for the low-paid and unskilled jobless; active policies to prevent people drifting into long-term unemployment and "lifelong learning" to keep pace with a rapidly-changing world, the statement said.

Workers and employers need to play an active role in finding "economically viable and socially acceptable solutions to the challenges of globalisation," as lower unemployment and more opportunities to move out of low-paid jobs would aid popular support for the global economy and technological change, it added.

The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD welcomed the fact that "governments now recognise that low pay, growing poverty and insecurity of workers are not a solution to unemployment but part of the same problem."

The ministers also expressed concern about rising unemployment among older men and the "modest progress" in improving job prospects for women, saying that "leaving these skill potentials unused does not bode well for coping with the future challenges, especially that of ageing populations."

Each country needs its own strategy of macro- and micro-economic policies to tackle the unemployment problem, including structural reforms to translate economic growth into rising employment, the statement said.

While some countries have made good progress in structural reforms and have reaped the benefit of higher employment, others have made slow progress, notably due to concern that greater labour and product market flexibility "will threaten social cohesion by leading to growing earnings inequality and poverty."

The OECD has long expressed concern that lack of labour market flexibility in the European Union (EU), notably in France and Germany, is hampering efforts to bring down unemployment.

The International Monetary Fund warned last month that lack of labour market reform is the only real threat to a successful launch of the single EU currency.

For the low-paid and unskilled jobless, the OECD ministers said the first priority is to find jobs for the unskilled by improving their employability, but a lifelong learning programme should also be available to enable them to improve their skills and not be permanently trapped in low-paid jobs.

Not enough evidence is available on the best policy mix to achieve this, and the ministers "encouraged the OECD to assign a high priority to work in this area."

The meeting, the first OECD labour ministers' meeting in five years, proposed that OECD labour and education ministers meet together "to assess the successes and failures of past efforts to coordinate labour market and education and training policies" and develop mechanisms for future cooperation.

The statement gave no suggested date for such a meeting.

OECD labour ministers said here Wednesday that industrialised countries need to overhaul their education systems to offer training between school and retirement to reduce youth unemployment and cope with an ageing population.

"Most countries in the Western world experience smaller and smaller youth generations and there is a real risk that we will be facing the problem of shortage of labour in the not too distant future," Danish Labour Minister Jytte Andersen told the conference.

"So measures must be taken — mainly in relation to young persons — but also, to a wide extent, in relation to older persons," she said.

The conference discussed ways to reduce a more than 10 per cent jobless rate in OECD countries, but particularly how to resolve the current problem of youth unemployment and how to equip the workforce to meet the future needs of employers in a rapidly-changing world with an ageing population.

The industrialised world needed to harness the expertise of older workers to improve training, as well as instilling a system where training throughout one's working life is seen as the norm, EU representative Padraig Flynn told reporters.

Too many young people droped out of school and went into long-term unemployment, either because there was no training avaliable or because there was no motivation to take it up, Mr. Flynn said.

Difficult decisions requiring "political courage" would have to be taken if the problem were to be resolved, Mr. Flynn warned.

He also stressed the need to link any such measures "to the realities of working life."

People who have never had a job or unemployed for a long time need not only training for a particular job, but also the chance to learn "more basic things, such as getting out of bed in the morning, being punctual, solving the tasks they are presented with," Ms. Andersen said.

But such a shakeup of the education and training system will require funding to enable adults with family responsibilities, for example, to return to education without total loss of income.

"A lot of partners are needed in these initiatives" to engage school-leavers in the world of work and allow for training during a person's working life, U.S. Labour Secretary Alexis Herman told AFP.

Not only the federal government but local authorities, the business community and non-profit organisations are involved in such programmes in the United States, she said.

She also stressed the importance of convincing children in school that "what you learn impacts what you earn," noting that the U.S. government plans to lengthen the basic education requirement from 12 years to 14.

"One of the good things about this meeting" was that it allowed an exchange of views on how to move away from traditional resources and traditional funding to cope with the urgent need for lifelong learning programmes, she said.

Some countries already seek to motivate the jobless by obliging them to take either an appropriate job offer or training to qualify for state benefits, such as Sweden or Denmark.

South Korean Labour Minister Ki-Ho Lee said that governments must address the problem both of youth unemployment and the people who lose their jobs late in their careers, noting that "aged workers are more likely to slip into long-term unemployment once unemployed."

His country is planning a system where a worker's training and education throughout his life woud be recorded as a continuous whole, taking account of education, training and job experience.

German and European traders show interest in Jordanian produce

BONN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in an international food and beverage fair in the German city of Cologne where it displayed high quality agricultural vegetables and fruits.

Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Director General Salem Lawzi, who led the Jordanian delegation to the fair, said Jordan achieved major success as numerous German and other European firms have concluded deals for the purchase of Jordanian agricultural products.

The fair presented a good opportunity for Jordanian exporters to meet foreign importers and merchants and discuss future business relations with them, he said.

Dr. Lawzi commended the efforts of Jordan's ambassador to Germany, Hussein Hamami, and his embassy staff for the facilities they offered to the delegation and the Jordanian private sector that enabled them to achieve success

Raed Hattar, head of AMO's research department said that the products displayed by the Jordanian delegation reflected the country's ability to compete in foreign markets.

Cabinet to review proposals today for privatisation of JTC

AMMAN (J.T.) – The Cabinet will review Saturday the recommendations of the Higher Ministerial Privatisation Committee on the final measures to privatise the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC), Minister of Public Works and Housing and Acting Minister of Transposrt and Telecommunicaitons Nasser Lawzi told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times Friday.

Mr. Lawzi said that some significant recommendations were taken during the long session of the Higher Ministerial Privatisation Committee which was held last Wednesday.

The minister added that among the recommendations were raising the participation of the strategic partner from 26 per cent to 40 per cent and isssuing licences to the JTC to provide mobile services.

He noted that the Cabinet is expected to approve these recommendations Saturday and that they will be effective as of the begining of next month.

Mr. Lawzi said that technical committees were formed to ensure the selling the government shares of the JTC.

Egypt tightens ban on products made in Israeli settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Egypt has tightened measures designed to stop the importation of goods made in Jewish settlements on Israeli-occupied Arab land, Israel Television has reported.

The report said Israeli exporters are now obliged to obtain a certificate from the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv proving that their products have not been manufactured in the West Bank, Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights.

Despite the signing of a peace treaty in 1979, relations between Egypt and Israel have remained cold.

Relations have further deteriorated since right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu took office in June last year on a hardline, pro-settlement platform and froze the peace process.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES:
(March 21 to April 19) Listen carefully to suggestions made today by friends. Make note of your ambitions, and also of routines which need improvement. Later this evening will be good for you to seek out the advice of knowledgeable people.

TAURUS:
(April 20 to May 20) If someone nearby has good financial experience today, ask for and follow this person's advice. Find more modern means of advancing in business, so that you can gain the respect and admiration of a bigwig.

GEMINI:
(May 21 to June 21) Enjoy a gathering of close friends tonight, and make plans for get-togethers in the days ahead. These can be very interesting and profitable to you and fellow associates, so make every effort to complete some new project.

MOON CHILDREN:
(June 22 to July 21) Be with the one you love all day today, and you will both find much happiness. Avoid associating with strangers you know nothing about or you discover that you are in a difficult situation which won't be pleasant.

LEO:
(July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day today for being gregarious and enjoying the company of your best friends. The best method to gain your wishes is to state them clearly in such a manner that knowledgeable people can be of assistance.

VIRGO:
(August 22 to September 22) Get out socially today, perhaps to a civic function, and meet with persons who may be able to assist you materially in the days ahead. Later this evening will be a good time to go out on the town with close friends.

LIBRA:
(September 23 to October 22) If you've been thinking about a short trip with a close friend, this is a good day today to plan it. A new situation will raise later this evening which will benefit you greatly, so keep an eye on the situation.

SCORPIO:
(October 23 to November 21) This is an ideal day today to get your responsibilities organised so you can handle them more easily. Invite some good friends in for dinner and make it an evening which they will not long forget about in the days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS:
(November 22 to December 21) Be alert to new opportunities in the business world which will bring you success in the days ahead. This is also a good time to make new arrangements or to revise any old ones which have been in consideration.

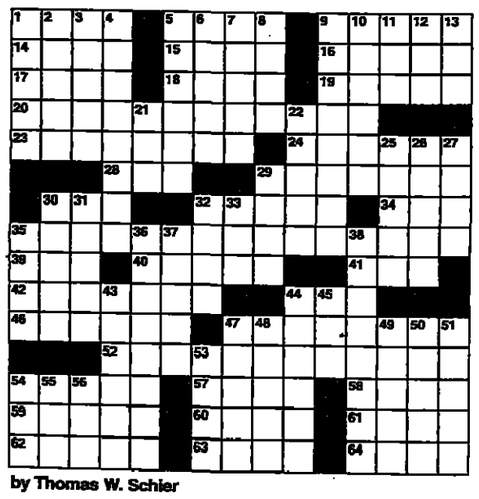
CAPRICORN:
(December 22 to January 20) A quiet discussion with a fellow associate can reveal much information which you were not aware of. Although it's good day to relax, don't neglect your duties so that you can gain the recognition of a bigwig.

AQUARIUS:
(January 21 to February 19) You are highly creative today, and you can use this ability to make your ideas work more successfully. Enjoy the company of your mate later this evening and thereby you can have a romantic time together.

PISCES:
(February 20 to March 20) This is a fine day today to improve your relationship with your family. This would also be a good time to entertain guests or to have a picnic, so make plans to get together and have a wonderful time.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword

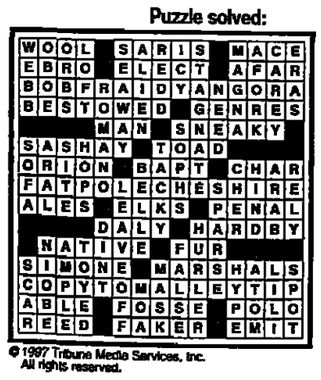


ACROSS
1 Fiery gemstone
5 Cod's relative
9 Violin's sound opening
14 Valley of the grapes
15 "Diary of — Housewife"
16 Did garden work
17 Mine products
18 Wolf
19 Actor Davis
20 Governors Island structure, once
23 Machine part
24 1995 merger group
28 Alliance letters
29 Side by side
30 TV attachment
32 San —, CA
34 Alphabetic trio
35 Roth satire
39 Flange
40 Runner-up
41 — Bay, Japan
42 Certain national anthem
44 — and downs
46 Guatemala's neighbor
47 Backs down
52 State capital
54 Actress Black
57 Practice boxing
58 Dam it!
59 Without help
60 Ann or Nan add-on
61 Baseball's Speaker
62 Deviated, nautically
63 Fabric colorer
64 Sensible

DOWN
1 Switch type
2 Not written
3 Silly trick
4 Amen, sometimes
5 Headlights?
6 Soap plant
7 Afghan capital
8 Ancient country
9 Ribbons and ruffles
10 Quarrel
11 Gives permission
12 Wreath
13 Netherlands commune
21 Half a dance?
22 Tower of —
25 Auto parts, for short
26 Point in question
27 Ed and Mel
29 Fabric ending
30 Express opinions
31 Hard resin
32 Tableland
33 Expert
35 Mass
36 Published far and wide
37 Alpine song
38 Separates incorrectly
43 Ancient creed
44 Loan shark
45 Footlike part
47 Gas gauge reading
48 Fall off
49 Scarlett —
50 Belong
51 "All That Jazz" director
53 Played for a sucker
54 After jay
55 Chicken — king
56 Line

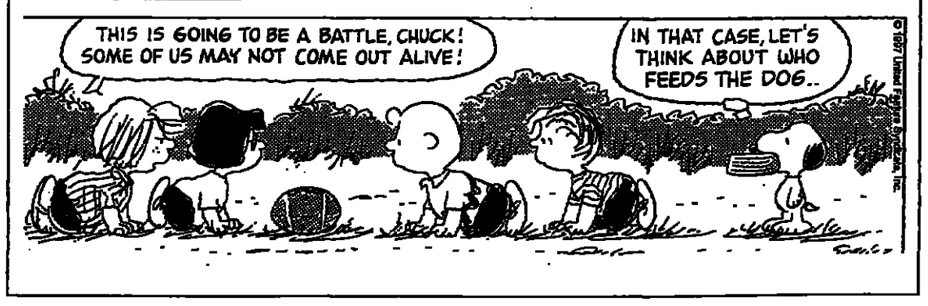
by Thomas W. Schier

Puzzle solved:



© 1997 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE BETTER HALF®

By Glasbergen

"I've been bored to sweat, bored to drool, even bored to excessive earwax. But I've never actually been bored to tears."

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TREEB

NOJAB

TUSDIP

MYGLAB

©1997 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : HER

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHISK FINIS HALVED SYMBOL
Answer: Throwing a plate in anger resulted in this — A "DISH-MISSILE"

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Securities Commission gives initial approval to 14 companies to raise capital through offering shares or capitalisation of reserves, premiums

** THE BOARD of the Securities Commission has given its preliminary approval for a number of companies to increase their capital either through public or private subscription, capitalisation of voluntary or special reserves or capitalisation of retained earnings or premiums of issuance.

The initial approval requires the companies to provide the commission with issuance prospects and all documents and statements related to raising the capital and to payment of required fees.

The approvals were given to the following companies:

The Arab Jordan Investment Bank, The Jordan Electric Power Co., The Arab Food and Medical Appliances Co., The National Cable and Wire Manufacturing Co., The Jordan Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment, The Universal Modern Industries Co., The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan), The Zara Investment Co., The Jordan Kuwait Bank, The General Investment Co., The Arabian Seas Insurance Co., The Philadelphia Insurance Co., The Sanctuary Investment Group, and The Jordan Press and Publishing / Ad-Dustour.

Meanwhile, the new securities law went into effect Thursday following the issuance of regulations that organise the issuance of securities at the primary market and their registration at the Security Commission.

The regulations, announced by Securities Commission President Michel Marto last week, covered the following areas:

1) Pricing securities which, in the past, was handled by an issuance committee. By abolishing the committee, the new regulations permit issues of securities can fix the prices in any way they deem suitable.

2) Floating securities and the means for such floating whether through pubic or private subscription.

3) Allocating minimum subscription equally for all subscribers with the minimum to be between 50 to 250 shares.

4) Allowing capitalisation of issuance premiums for public shareholding companies as a way to increase capital.

Mr. Marto said further requlations will be issued in due course including areas of disclosure, organising operations of financial professions related to the capital market and underwriters (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 17/10/97 19:52

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	IT	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7717	0.6189	1.4750	120.18	1.3858	1729.17	1.9960	5.9405
DE Mark	0.5644	-	0.3491	0.8325	67.81	0.7819	975.61	1.1268	3.3528
GB Sterling	1.6158	2.8628	-	2.3796	194.70	2.2392	2793.98	3.2251	9.5987
CH Franc	0.6780	120.03	0.4192	-	81.43	0.9388	1171.52	135.27	4.0261
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4736	0.5146	1.2268	-	1.1526	14.38	166.02	4.9409
CA Dollar	0.7219	1.2860	0.4471	1.0665	1.15	-	1247.46	1.4257	4.2427
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0241	0.3576	0.0853	1440.92	0.8010	-	11.54	3.4338
NL Guilder	0.5010	88.72	0.3098	73.89	86.16	0.6938	865.86	-	29.747
FR Franc	0.1683	0.2981	0.1041	24.8187	20.21	0.2332	33.59	33.5900	-

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6402	0.3040	3.6728	1537.00	3.3980
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2972	0.5325	5.1415	0.4294	5.1876	2170.90	4.7994
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	409.82	0.9060
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.9450	-	9.66	0.8064	9.74	4076.92	9.0133
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	1.0303	-	0.0835	1.01	422.23	0.9335
Kuwait Dinar	3.2895	2.3289	12.3388	1.2401	11.97	-	12.08	5053.92	9.9335
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	0.1026	0.9911	0.0828	-	418.48	0.9252
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4606	2.4401	0.2453	2.3684	0.1978	2.3896	-	2.2108
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2084	1.1037	0.1109	1.0713	0.0895	1.0809	452.32	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	20.10	19.59
W. Texa	21.38	20.95
Bonny	20.10	19.59
Dubai	19.05	18.68
UL Gas	199.00	200.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4726	0.16502	0.39356	32.0574
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48258	0.16851	0.40188	32.7356
KW Dinar	3.2895	5.8309	2.03583	4.85437	395.57
BH Dinar	2.6770	4.70148	1.6415	3.91543	318.878
CY Pound	1.9089	3.382	1.181	2.8156	229.412

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	324.4	324.9
Silver (oz's)	4.96	4.98
Platinum (oz's)	420.5	422.5
AL (3 Months)	1629	1631
CU (3 Months)	2111	2115
Zinc (3 Months)	1297	1300
Lead (3 Months)	609	610
NI (3 Months)	6540	6560

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period / Ccy	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.50	5.65	5.77	5.84	5.97
GBP	7.09	7.25	7.37	7.25	7.43
JPY	0.50	0.50	0.53	0.48	0.47
DEM	3.37	3.55	3.75	3.81	4.09
FRF	3.48	3.65	3.80	3.95	4.19
CHF	1.66	1.85	1.93	1.99	2.22
ITL	6.63	6.38	6.10	5.81	5.80

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	161.17	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1868	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	296.5	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	140	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.64	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	154	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	420	Spot

*** JOD Cross Rates**

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1492	1.1538
DE Mark	0.4051	0.4071
CH Franc	0.4853	0.4877
FR Franc	0.1208	0.1214
JP Yen	0.5867	0.5898
NL Guilder	0.3598	0.3614
IT Lira	0.4143	0.4164

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (11/10/1997 - 15/10/1997)
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	No. OF CONTRACT	No. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENNING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
341.000	332.000	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	25	1180	389260	335.50	335.50	328.00	329.00	- 6.50	329.881	.027	5
1.980	1.920	JOR.NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	66	66600	128367	1.94	1.94	1.89	1.89	- .05	1.927	.159	5
5.000	4.900	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.3	3.00	3	2390	11872	4.90	5.00	4.80	5.00	+ .10	4.967	.024	1
1.110	.910	MID.EAST INV.BK.	73.6	0.00	52	182276	213086	1.11	1.17	1.12	1.12	+ .01	1.169	1.823	5
2.600	2.300	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	10.2	6.13	89	39475	101702	2.55	2.60	2.56	2.58	+ .03	2.576	.339	5
5.000	4.920	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.90	45	130985	652301	4.93	4.98	4.98	4.98	+ .05	4.980	.524	5
3.200	3.130	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	11.1	0.00	11	801	2515	3.15	3.16	3.12	3.12	- .03	3.140	.008	2
.870	.740	JOR.GULF BANK	4.7	8.86	13	3330	2636	.79	.83	.79	.79	-	.792	.017	3
3.800	3.620	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	14.8	3.30	57	11077	40678	3.67	3.70	3.64	3.64	- .02	3.672	.076	5
1.260	1.200	UNION BK.SAV.INV.	171.1	0.00	2	400	488	1.23	1.22	1.22	1.22	- .01	1.220	.002	1
3.620	3.450	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	24.9	0.00	27	5292	20173	3.58	3.90	3.70	3.88	+ .30	3.812	.053	5
.950	.910	BEIT.AL-MAL (BEITWA)	.6	16.48	10	2800	2520	.92	.91	.88	.91	- .01	.900	.140	4
4.250	3.650	ARAB BANKING CO.	18.1	0.00	8	1989	7053	3.65	3.75	3.70	3.75	+ .10	3.734	.019	3
BANKS SECTOR					409	448525	1572736	INDEX NUMBER : 236.84				CHANGE :- 1.41%			
2.200	2.200	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	13.8	7.22	1	9000	20790	2.20	2.31	2.31	2.31	+ .11	2.310	.750	1
3.950	3.950	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.7	5.06	2	350	1383	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	-	3.951	.033	1
1.960	1.750	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	7.89	8	9150	17418	1.92	1.92	1.90	1.90	- .02	1.904	.416	2
INSURANCE SECTOR				-	11	18500	39590	INDEX NUMBER : 114.57				CHANGE :- 0.11%			
2.050	1.810	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	168	103228	197351	1.91	1.95	1.89	1.89	- .02	1.912	.688	5
4.030	3.110	IRBID ELECTRICITY	21.8	3.14	25	8550	29160	3.69	3.66	3.33	3.66	- .03	3.411	.285	5
1.360	1.310	NATL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	15	4600	5903	1.31	1.30	1.27	1.27	- .04	1.283	.092	4
.930	.900	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	2	5500	5060	.92	.92	.92	.92	-	.920	.117	1
1.480	1.230	MID. EAST HOTELS	21.0	0.00	14	19517	27311	1.40	1.40	1.38	1.38	- .02	1.399	.383	3
3.560	3.400	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	9.5	0.00	45	21120	75839	3.53	3.66	3.52	3.64	+ .11	3.591	.209	4
1.000	.940	ZARKA EDUCATION	-	0.00	27	33650	30614	.94	.94	.90	.90	- .04	.910	.748	5
1.830	1.740	UNITED CO.	8.4	6.21	8	2750	4862	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.77	- .01	1.768	.055	3
.740	.700	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	52	24825	19588	.74	.81	.75	.75	+ .01	.789	.497	5
SERVICES SECTOR					358	223815	395725	INDEX NUMBER : 111.04				CHANGE :+ 0.19%			
1.000	1.000	AZTAKGEED	-	0.00	5	1002	1002	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.000	.036	2
3.880	3.540	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.8	3.56	113	59437	198914	3.54	3.50	3.09	3.09	- .45	3.347	.098	5
3.720	3.700	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	10.1	2.74	8	50800	185460	3.70	3.70	3.65	3.65	- .05	3.651	.115	2
6.250	6.000	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.0	3.33	16	4432	26589	6.03	6.00	6.00	6.00	- .03	5.999	.006	4
11.100	10.750	JOR. PETROL.REFINERY	10.8	8.00	67	11645	128306	10.97	11.11	10.95	11.11	+ .14	11.018	.182	5
4.700	4.700	JORDAN TANNING	6.1	6.06	2	250	1223	4.70	4.95	4.85	4.95	+ .25	4.892	.025	2
1.120	1.100	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	9.3	9.35	6	5700	6212	1.12	1.10	1.07	1.07	- .05	1.090	.570	3
1.670	1.610	INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR.	-	0.00	22	3628	5621	1.61	1.60	1.49	1.49	- .12	1.549	.073	3
6.950	6.800	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	10.6	3.03	9	6649	45798	6.95	6.95	6.60	6.60	- .35	6.888	.166	3
4.650	4.560	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.9	4.63	96	25337	113377	4.60	4.58	4.32	4.32	- .28	4.475	.282	5
5.590	5.200	JOR.CERAMIC IND.	5.1	4.00	1	100	500	5.20	5.00	5.00	5.00	- .20	5.000	.004	1
2.700	2.650	JORDAN DAIRY	9.4	8.73	2	200	555	2.70	2.80	2.75	2.80	+ .10	2.775	.011	2
1.270	1.270	JOR.PIPES MANFCT.	14.6	6.78	16	3776	4520	1.27	1.24	1.18	1.18	- .09	1.197	.116	3
6.000	5.750	DAR ALDawa DV.INV.	13.7	4.46	6	1500	8580	5.90	5.80	5.60	5.60	- .30	5.720	.025	4
2.500	2.380	ARAB ALUM.IND.	5.6	10.46	10	6732	16039	2.39	2.39	2.37	2.39	-	2.383	.112	5
.570	.490	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	90	73950	37768	.51	.52	.50	.50	- .01	.511	2.241	5
1.010	.820	ARAB PAPER CONV.IND.	26.9	0.00	16	7150	6375	.93	.90	.88	.88	- .05	.892	.204	5
.800	.770	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	2	500	395	.78	.79	.79	.79	+ .01	.790	.013	1
.620	.520	NATIONAL INDS.	-	0.00	30	14000	7820	.57	.57	.55	.55	- .02	.559	.233	4
.590	.540	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	-	0.00	32	35450	19849	.57	.57	.55	.55	- .02	.560	.886	4
.690	.640	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	-	0.00	3	1000	670	.68	.67	.67	.67	- .01	.670	.033	1
1.480	1.420	UNIV.CHEM.INDS.	12.9	6.99	9	1500	2145	1.42	1.43	1.43	1.43	+ .01	1.430	.100	1
2.300	2.200	NATL.CABLE WIRE.MFAC	35.3	0.00	1	100	220	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	-	2.200	.002	1
.730	.620	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	-	0.00	63	84950	57977	.70	.70	.67	.67	- .03	.682	1.887	5
1.340	1.280	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	16.9	5.30	40	19800	26374	1.28	1.35	1.28	1.32	+ .04	1.332	.396	5
.700	.680	KANTHER INVEST.	64.1	0.00	4	950	620	.68	.66	.65	.65	- .03	.653	.048	2
1.250	1.220	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	478.5	.20	37	18100	22284	1.23	1.26	1.21	1.26	+ .03	1.231	.362	5
.920	.890	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	21	56333	51250	.92	.92	.90	.91	- .01	.910	.704	5
1.600	1.540	NATL. CHLORINE	14.5	4.55	11	9290	14461	1.56	1.56	1.53	1.54	- .02	1.557	.129	4
.870	.830	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	101	90520	79357	.87	.89	.86	.87	-	.877	1.132	5
1.520	1.470	EL -KAY READY WEAR	50.7	0.00	5	946	1361	1.47	1.44	1.44	1.44	- .03	1.439	.013	1
1.180	1.120	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	25	8428	9904	1.18	1.19	1.16	1.18	-	1.175	.084	5
1.150	1.080	UNION CH. & VEG.	52.3	0.00	67	37076	42461	1.13	1.16	1.13	1.15	+ .02	1.145	.824	5
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					914	641231	1123983	INDEX NUMBER : 115.07				CHANGE :- 3.31%			
GRAND TOTAL					1692	1332071	3132035	INDEX NUMBER : 170.28				CHANGE :- 1.98%			

NO. OF DAYS TRADED : 5
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : JD 626,407
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES : 266,414
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS : 338

TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (11/10/1997 - 15/10/1997)
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	No. OF CONTRACT	No. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENNING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
.320	.300	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	-	0.00	14	18050	5964	.32	.34	.32	.33	+ .01	.330	.547	3
.500	.400	JOR.TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	184	454900	181024	.41	.41	.39	.39	- .02	.398	10.831	5
.420	.390	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	-	0.00	43	157350	62940	.40	.40	.40	.40	-	.400	1.574	5
.790	.720	UNION INV. 50%	-	0.00	174	814720	236889	.78	.80	.76	.78	-	.291	3.703	5
1.280	1.100	KARA FOR INVESTMENT	78.7	0.00	1	250	300	1.26	1.20	1.20	1.20	- .06	1.200	.001	1
.770	.730	AL-DANLIYAH 75%	72.0	0.00	7	10980	5536	.77	.76	.75	.75	- .02	.504	.078	2
.860	.850	AL-SHARQ INV.CO.	302.8	0.00	10	22636	19545	.85	.87	.85	.86	+ .01	.863	.252	4
1.110	.950	UNITED FOR FINAN.INV	57.3	0.00	10	73500	80600	1.11	1.10	1.05	1.10	- .01	1.097	7.000	4
.520	.490	ARAB FOOD & MED.	-	0.00	5	4500	2178	.50	.49	.48	.48	- .02	.484	.129	3
.410	.380	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	46.1	0.00	15	11100	4499	.40	.41	.40	.40	-	.405	.222	3
.260	.230	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JEMCO	-	0.00	4	4500	1080	.24	.24	.24	.24	-	.240	.265	2
.400	.380	NATL. TEXTILE	-	0.00	3	15000	5850	.39	.39	.39	.39	-	.390	.600	1
.450	.430	NAYFAK DIES & MOULDS	-	0.00	4	750	319	.45	.43	.41	.43	- .02	.425	.050	2
.640	.610	MIDEAST PHARM. 75%	-	0.00	69	187445	72033	.61	.66	.61	.64	+ .03	.384	1.973	5
.770	.750	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	12	9271	7005	.75	.76	.75	.76	+ .01	.756	.062	4
.460	.460	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	-	0.00	2	57000	26220	.46	.46	.46	.46	-	.460	.950	2
1.300	1.160	UNION TOBACCO 75%	-	0.00	52	63520	70491	1.30	1.39	1.31	1.38	+ .08	1.110	1.270	5
.680	.650	RAZI PHARM. 85%	-	0.00	18	18320	9414	.66	.67	.66	.66	-	.514	.183	5
.340	.300	INDS. ENG.	-	0.00	48	55013	18470	.34	.35	.32	.34	-	.336	.786	4
.660	.640	NATL. POULTRY	-	0.00	31	32300	20388	.64	.64	.62	.64	-	.631	.323	5
1.020	.930	READY MIX CONCRETE	12.7	0.00	3	5450	5473	.98	1.05	1.00	1.05	+ .07	1.004	.182	2
.710	.690	NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75%	97.4	0.00	50	153500	68030	.70	.70	.69	.70	-	.443	1.279	4
.630	.600	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	57	138700	85678	.61	.63	.61	.62	+ .01	.618	.630	5
.970	.800	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	41.0	0.00	9	10735	9787	.89	.95	.85	.85	- .04	.912	.179	5
.630	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.MANICO	-	0.00	51	189580	78225	.41	.42	.41	.42	+ .01	.413	.632	5
GRAND TOTAL					876	2509070	1077934								

NO. OF DAYS TRADED : 5
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : JD 215,587
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES : 501,814
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS : 175

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI Jewellers.Gems dealers.Unique designs in18k Gold · At Amra Forum Hotel Shops Phone5527118 Also in Brazil ·

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale furnished or unfurnished
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel:- 810605-810609
Fax:- 810520
Mobile:- 079/30007

STUDIO HAIG
Professional quality in 1 hour service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
* JUMBO photo size 30% larger.
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm.
Shmeisani - Opposite Grindlays Bank.
Phone: 604042
Sweifieh Tel: 823891

HOSPITALITY . SECURITY . GASTRONOMY
Turino Hotel 863 944

CROWN HOTEL
* OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL
* TENNIS & SQUASH COURTS
* SAUNA, JACUZZI & MASSAGE
* FITNESS ROOM
Tel: 758180
Radio & tv station RD.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL
667171 EXT. 223
OR
684311 - 699634 EXT. 42

AIRPORT EXPRESS
Modern Air-Conditioned Busses Around the CLOCK Every 30 Minutes from Abdali to Airport and Back
Special Reduced Fares at 500 Fils for Airport Staff and our Frequent Customers
For Further Details call :
Airport Branch 08-51531
Abdali Branch 653313

Your Address In Amman
JUMBO'S CRYSTAL
Quality Serviced Suites
* One & Two Bedrooms * Fully Equipped Kitchenettes * Daily & Long Stay * Reasonable Rates
5th Circle
Tel. 692672 Fax 674551

FOR RENT
Apartments & Villas Deluxe in Amman
SANABEL Real Estate
Sweifiyeh Hajarat Complex
Tel. 864230 - 865167

Berger to retire

VIENNA (AFP) — Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger said here on Friday he will retire from Formula One racing following the last Grand Prix of the year in Jerez, Spain.

Berger, who won 10 grands prix from 1986 to 1997, said he will drive his 210th and last race race in the European Grand Prix in Spain on October 26.

"It will be my last grand prix," Berger confirmed at a press conference.

The 38-year-old Berger, who currently races for Benetton, won the German Grand Prix on July 27 after enduring two months of misery.

He was making a comeback after missing the three previous races following a painful sinus operation and the death of his father Johann in a light plane crash.

Thursday's edition of Vienna's Kurier newspaper had already revealed Berger was about to retire.

Born in 1959 in Woergl, West Austria, Berger trained as a mechanic and began work as a driver in his father's transport company.

Always comfortable in the world of fast cars, he raced for Ford in Formula 3 between 1982 and 1984, during which time he met Brazilian Ayrton Senna, who was to become his teammate at McLaren.

In August 1984, Berger raced his first ever Grand Prix in Formula One on the Austrian circuit of Zeltweg and took 12th place.

Berger, always with a ready smile and who likes to joke, has been one of Formula One's more popular characters.

There were sombre moments in his career, however, including the death of both Ayrton Senna at Imola on May 1 1994 and his friend Roland Ratzenberger on the same track a day earlier.

"At that time, I was considering whether the moment had come to retire," Berger said on Friday.

Berger had his first victory with Benetton in Mexico in 1986. He then raced with Ferrari from 1987 to 1989 and at McLaren until 1992 before returning to Ferrari a year later.

He currently lives in Monaco and is married to a former model from Portugal Ana.

He is the father of three daughters — Christina, 18, born from a former relationship, two-year-old Sarah, and Heidi, six months.

"I can count on my fingers the times I have seen my new baby and I have a lot of time to catch up on," Berger said.

He said he may return to Formula One in some other role, but only after a long break.

Austria's Formula One driver Gerhard Berger announced that he was taking a break from Formula One motor racing, October 17. Berger said the Formula One Grand Prix in Jeres on October 26 will be his last race, but he could make a comeback sometimes in the future (Reuters photo)

World Series matches young and old

MIAMI (AFP) — Cuban defector Livan Hernandez is just beginning to live the American dream of baseball stardom at age 22 even as Orel Hershiser, at 39, nears the end of an epic baseball career.

The two pitchers, opposite extremes who will start against each other here Saturday in game one of the World Series, symbolize their clubs' main differences — youthful energy against veteran experience.

Hershiser will open for American League champion Cleveland against Florida and Hernandez, whose heroic 15-strikeout effort as a fill-in starter made him the Most Valuable Player in the National League finals.

Hernandez went 9-3 with a 3.18 earned-run average this year for Florida but was to be a playoff reliever until starter Alex Fernandez tore his right rotator cuff in the league finals.

"They have a great pitching staff," Cleveland's Jim Thome said.

"They are going to be tough to beat."

This could be the grand farewell for Hershiser, who reached the major leagues in 1983 when Hernandez was an eight-year-old playing in a Cuban village. Hershiser has no contract for next season but is not worried.

"I don't really think about it that way," he said. "You know in this game it's 'What have you done for me lately?' I don't look at this as me having to make some kind of statement."

His record speaks for itself. Hershiser is 8-1 in career playoff games with a 1.95 earned-run average.

In 1988, Hershiser pitched a record 59 consecutive scoreless innings for the Los Angeles Dodgers, appeared in four games of the league finals and hurled a complete game over Oakland to win the World Series finale.

In 1995, he was Most Valuable Player of the American League finals with a 2-0 record and went 1-1 in the World Series, which the Indians lost to Atlanta in six games.

"It might be a little easier on dealing with the feelings this time because we have been through it before, but they are still there," Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove said.

"It's the same pressure, the same dreams, the same aspirations, the same fears. I have learned to keep the antacid close and say a lot of prayers."

David Justice, who slammed the Series-winning homer for the Braves in 1995, is now an Indian. So is fellow outfielder Marquis Grissom, also obtained from Atlanta in March.

Florida squelched a grudge match against the Braves by beating them in the league finals but Justice does not mind. "As long as we're in the Series, it doesn't matter who we play," he said.

The Indians kept Florida slugger Bobby Bonilla, a 12-year veteran in his first World Series, from facing his former club by beating Baltimore. Bonilla ripped Orioles manager Davey Johnson after his release in 1996.

Without such distractions, the focus will be on which surprise finalist will claim the crown.

"If you had told us at the beginning of the season we would be in the World Series, you would think that would be a successful season," Marlin general manager Dave Dombrowski said.

"We're not satisfied. The goal is to win it."

The Indians took Thursday off. The Marlins had a 75-minute workout. But for Florida slugger Gary Sheffield, preparing for the World Series was far from taxing.

"This is the most fun I have had in my baseball career," the 10th-year major leaguer said. "This is every kid's dream. This is what it's all about this is something money can't buy."

The Marlins are a fifth-year club boosted by $90 million in spending but beset by injuries. They will lose $30 million this season and are up for sale by owner Wayne Huizenga.

The Indians can win their first World Series since 1948.

Cleveland made only three playoff trips in 94 years before making the playoffs the past three seasons.

Florida ace Kevin Brown, who won the games in the National League finals, will likely start in game two Sunday against either rookie Jaret Wright or Chad Ogea.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Armstrong returns to racing in '98

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American cyclist Lance Armstrong signed with the U.S. Postal Service team Thursday, just a little more than one year after learning that he suffered from testicular cancer. "I'm happy to be riding for a U.S. team again," said Armstrong, 26, who signed a one-year deal with U.S. Postal Service. "I plan to return in early 1998, but I'm not sure which race will be the first." Racing anywhere will be a victory for Armstrong, who was given only a 50 per cent chance to live last year by doctors treating the cancer which was discovered in his testicles, but later spread throughout his body. Following the diagnosis on October 9 of last year, Armstrong endured extensive chemotherapy and underwent brain surgery. Now, his cancer is in remission. Armstrong split with French team Cofidis earlier this month. He never rode for the team, which he joined shortly before he was diagnosed with cancer.

Deportivo La Coruna coach sacked

MADRID (AFP) — Deportivo La Coruna's Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Silva was sacked on Thursday evening by club president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro. And Lendoiro has also given an ultimatum to Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto. Should striker Bebeto not arrive by Monday night, Lendoiro will not allow him to play at the club. Deportivo, who are only 15th in the Spanish championship with six points in six matches, are already out of the UEFA Cup and lost 3-1 at home on Wednesday to bottom club Real Valladolid. It was Valladolid's first points of the season. Sources close to the club believe Brazil's Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, the Paraguay national coach, or Portugal coach Artur Jorge, are possible replacements for Silva, the fourth Spanish first division coach to be axed this season. Silva's assitant Jose Manuel Corral has taken over a caretaker role at the club who have their next match at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

All-British plan for League Cup

LONDON (AFP) — English and Scottish sides could face each other in next season's League Cup in a bid to give a much-needed boost to the competition on either side of the border. The Football League feel that after the success of Liverpool's UEFA Cup tie with Celtic, making the competition an all-British affair could revive the big clubs' flagging interest. After a week when Arsenal and Manchester United fielded drastically weakened sides, League chairman David Sheepshanks feels it is time to act. Such a revamped cup could strengthen the League's hand in discussions with UEFA to restore the competition's European place. Sheepshanks said: "I think now is a good time to seriously discuss a British Cup. "It has been raised several times before and always rejected. But now, given the excitement recently generated by the Liverpool-Celtic ties, perhaps some form of involvement between Scottish and English clubs should be considered."

Saints break the bank for Hirst

SOUTHAMPTON (AFP) — Southampton splashed out a club-record transfer fee of two million pounds ($3.2 million) to sign David Hirst from Premiership rivals Sheffield Wednesday on Friday. Former England striker Hirst is expected to make his debut against Blackburn at Ewood Park on Saturday. The 29-year-old, capped three times, passed a medical on Thursday night and will add vital firepower to the struggling Saints. He arrives with a proven goalscoring record at Hillsborough — 128 goals in 309 appearances.

Courier out of Stuttgart tourney

STUTTGART (AFP) — Former World No.1 Jim Courier has pulled out of the ATP tournament which begins here on Monday, the organizers announced on Friday. An injury has forced the American to miss the $2.3-million event.

Scifo set to miss UEFA Cup game

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Injured playmaker Enzo Scifo is expected to miss Anderlecht's UEFA Cup second round, first leg match at Germany's Schalke 04 on Tuesday. A hip injury is set to also keep the Belgian international out of the domestic championship match at Ekeren on Saturday.

Madar back in training

LA CORUNA, Spain (AFP) — France's Michael Madar is due to restart training at Deportivo La Coruna after more than two months enforced exile, Spanish press reported on Friday. The former Monaco striker has rejoined his teammates after a row with coach Carlos Alberto Silva at the beginning of August put him on to the sidelines. Silva wanted to punish the 29-year-old Frenchman, who had a confrontation with one of his teammates during a training session. Silva, however, was sacked on Thursday evening by club president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro.

Brazil top FIFA rankings

ZURICH (AFP) — Following are the FIFA world football rankings (Ranking end of 1996 in brackets):

1 Brazil (1)	72.15 points
2 Spain (8)	65.20
3 Germany (2)	63.03
4 Czech Republic (5)	61.97
5 Romania (16)	61.87
6 Denmark (6)	60.85
7 England (12)	60.66
8 Holland (9)	60.59
9 Russia (7)	60.01
10 Mexico (11)	59.94
11 Colombia (4)	59.51
12 Norway (14)	59.45
13 Argentina (22)	58.09
14 France (3)	57.88
15 Morocco (27)	57.65
16 Italy (10)	57.56
17 Sweden (17)	57.18
18 Bulgaria (15)	56.76
19 Zambia (20)	56.07
20 Japan (21)	56.00
21 Portugal (13)	55.45
22 Bolivia (39)	55.27
23 Austria (34)	55.11
24 Tunisia (23)	55.07
25 Scotland (29)	54.38
26 South Africa (19)	53.75
27 Chile (26)	53.62
28 Paraguay (38)	53.55
29 Croatia (24)	53.39
30 Slovakia (30)	53.11

Injuries force Huber, Zvereva out

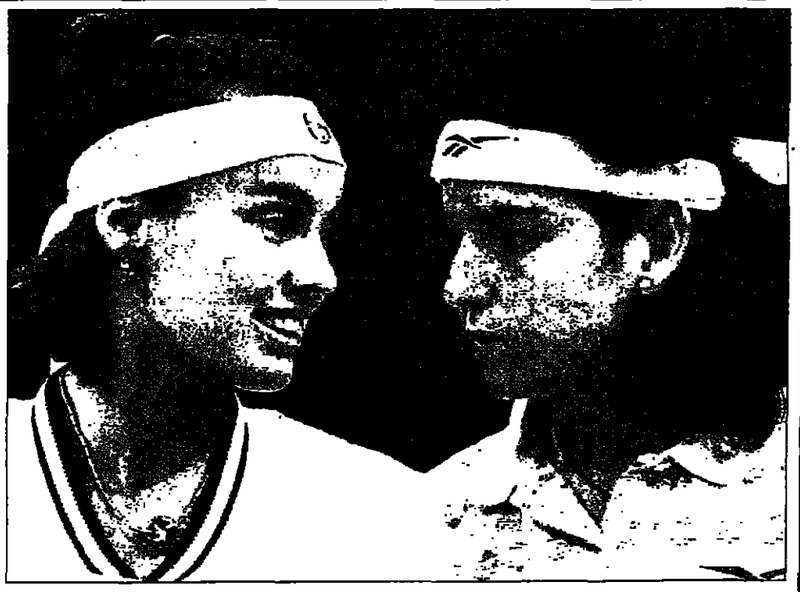
ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) — Injuries forced German Anke Huber and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus out of their second-round matches in the WTA Tour event here Thursday.

American Venus Williams got a walkover into the quarter-finals when sixth-seeded Huber withdrew with a back injury, while fourth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport also advanced to the last eight when a right shoulder injury forced Zvereva out in the second set of their contest.

Davenport was leading 6-4, 2-2 at the time. Another American, Lisa Raymond, surprised fifth-seeded South African Amanda Coetzer and will play top-seeded Swiss teenager Martina Hingis in the quarters.

Raymond triumphed 7-5, 6-3 and will meet Hingis in a repeat of last week's final in Filderstadt, Germany.

Hingis won in straight sets on Sunday. Nathalie Tauziat of France also advanced Thursday with a 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/3) win over Dominique van Roost of Belgium.



Swiss player Martina Hingis (L) and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario from Spain smile after they won their doubles tennis match at the European Championships in Kloten. World No. 1 Martina Hingis has been named goodwill ambassador for the World Health Organisation's immunisation programme. Hingis donated the $75,000 she won at the Arthur Ashe charity tournament to the polio eradiction campaign in Ethiopia (Reuters photo)

Egyptian Open

Jansher Khan gets revenge as he ousts Nicol in semis

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — World No. 1 Jansher Khan gained revenge here on Thursday as he beat Peter Nicol in the semi-finals of the Egyptian Open in Alexandria to erase the emmory of his loss to the Scot in Al Ahram in June.

Pakistan's Khan, who will not be defending his world title in Malaysia next month, began his semi-final with scalpel-like precision, his drop shots so perfect and tight against the wall that even Nicol, generally conceded to be the quickest mover in the game, was unable to get to them.

Nicol, the number three seed, knows the way to beat Jansher is to keep him in the back of the court and never to cross court a loose ball.

But he could not keep to this game plan as winner after winner came slicing of the Khan racket, the Pakistani legend eventually triumphing 15-8, 12-15, 15-11, 15-10.

Khan proved yet again that there is nobody to equal his confidence and precision at the front of the court. He took the first game 15-8 with eight outright winners and three penalty points.

Nicol managed to play it tighter and longer in the second game and it was point-for-point from 3-3 to 12-12. Khan failed on a backhand overhead volley, lost the next point on a penalty stroke and Nicol had the satisfaction of taking the game point with a beautiful backhand drop to win 15-12 in 18 minutes.

Khan, at 30, has slowed and some players now accuse him of hitting and blocking. His shots are so tight that referees are loathe to give penalty points against him and it was at 11-11 in the third game that Nicol was denied not only strokes but lets when there was a very good case for obstruction against Khan.

A disturbed Nicol volleyed the next serve into the tin and then Khan finished the game off with another beautiful backand volley drop to win 15-11.

In the fourth Khan went up a gear and Nicol failed to stay with him, trailing the entire match.

Symbolically, Khan took the final point with a dropshot that left Nicol stranded.

"I like to play Nicol, but today I didn't relax like I did at the Al Ahram and he played very well on that one day," Khan commented after the game.

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
Jessica Lange & Halle Berry ... in
LOSING ISAIAH
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Tom Cruise ... in
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10,30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Julia Roberts ... in
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Geena Davis & Samuel Jackson ...in
THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
FAIR GAME
Shows: 3:30 ,6:00 only

CINEMA TEL: 079 33430
GALLERIA 1
ABDOUN
Will Smith & Tommy Lee Jones ... in
MEN IN BLACK
Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 079 33430
GALLERIA 2
ABDOUN
Tim Allen... in
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE
Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Hisham Yanes Theatre
TEL: 625155
Watch out for the new play
THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE
Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas

Gunners risking all for Premiership glory

LONDON (AFP) — English Premiership action returns this weekend with Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hoping that his international stars have recovered from the physical and mental exertions of a draining World Cup week.

No fewer than 11 Gunners were on international duty and Wenger was taking no chances for the Premiership leaders' trip to Crystal Palace on Saturday when he rested his stars in Tuesday's League Cup clash with Birmingham.

Following Arsenal's exit from the UEFA Cup last month, the Frenchman has made no attempt to disguise his aim of bringing the league title back to Highbury for the first time since 1991 — and is even prepared to risk expulsion from the League Cup to achieve his ambition.

He said: "My only interest is to do the right thing for Arsenal and that means resting my international players."

One player who will definitely be missing from the clash with London rivals Palace is injured Frenchman Emmanuel Petit, who has been in sparkling form at the heart of Arsenal's midfield since his 3.5 million pound ($5.5 million) from AS Monaco in the close season.

But Wenger is hoping that his other international stars, including England trio Ian Wright, Tony Adams and David Seaman *plus* Dutch stars Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars will have recovered from the World Cup exploits.

Reigning champions Manchester United, currently one point behind Arsenal, face a difficult trip to high-flying Derby who were one of only two teams to beat United in the league at Old Trafford last season.

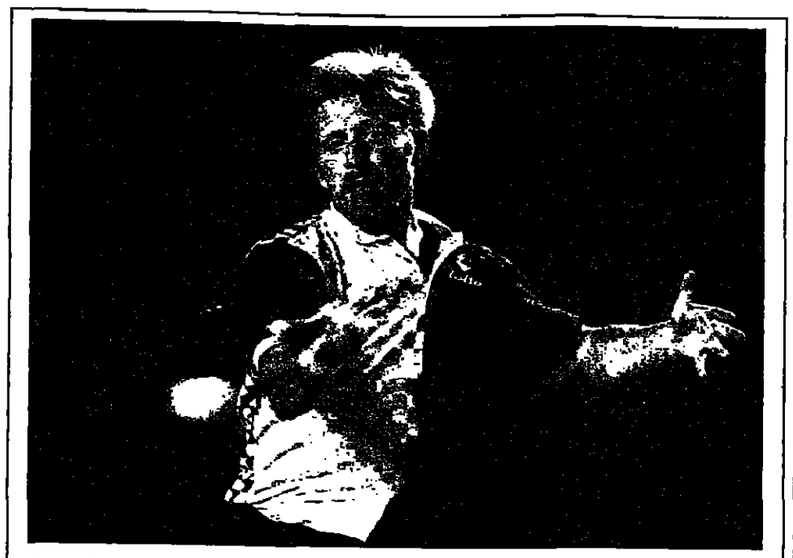
Jim Smith's Derby, along with fourth-placed Leicester, have been the surprise of the season and lie sixth going into Saturday's sell-out clash at Pride Park, their state-of-the-art new stadium.

Eight United players were involved in England's stirring 0-0 draw against Italy in Rome which clinched qualification for the 1998 finals, but none of them reported anything worse than a slight knock on their return.

Elsewhere, Liverpool will be hoping to compound the problems of arch rivals Everton when the two sides clash in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

Another clash of the heavyweights will take place at Elland Road where George Graham's Leeds, the only team to beat Manchester United this season, entertain Kenny Dalglish's Newcastle.

There will be little love lost at Stamford Bridge where fifth-placed Chelsea face fourth-placed Leicester in what is sure to be an explosive encounter after last season's FA Cup clash at Stamford Bridge.



Boris Becker of Germany plays a return during his match against Jonathan Stark of the U.S. at the Marlboro Championships '97 in Hong Kong, October 17. Becker won the match 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 (Reuters photo)

Qomoq wins Pepsi Speed Test

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The season's top speed test competitor Yanal Qomoq Friday took first place after registering best time of 02:17.45 minutes in his Renault 5 Turbo at the Pepsi Speed Test — the 7th and last speed test of the 1997 season — at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

With this precious win Qomoq moved to second place in the 1997 speed tests championships standings with 160 points.

Reigning Jordan Drivers Open Champion Ahmad Daoud remained at the top of the list with 168 points after taking second place with 02:20.34 in a Renault 5 GT Turbo.

Yasser Jarrar came third in the list and in the speed test with 156 points and 02:20.49 in his Renault 5 GT Turbo.

A heated competition was evident between Qomoq and rivals Daoud and Jarrar especially after Jarrar's successful attempt in registering best time in the first round.

In the second round it was apparent that Qomoq would not hold on and might lose his title as speed test champion.

However, Qomoq performed a wonderful round and beat Jarrar's time with a 3-second difference.

Jarrar could not continue the race after he surprisingly hit the pavement and lost the chance to compete for the third round.

Daoud registered a better time in the second round and withdrew from competition in the third special round.

With Daoud's withdrawal it became clear that Qomoq would be the speed test champion.

Twenty participants and only two women drivers took part in the event.

Abeer Batikhi in a Hyundai Accent registered 02:45.95 and Maya Mufti in a Mitsubishi Colt clocked 02:45.99.

The event consisted of two rounds in addition to a third round for the top ten who were given another chance to improve their timing.

The speed test displays the drivers' skills in manoeuvring, speed and safety.

Prizes were handed to the winners in a special ceremony at RACJ premises.

The auto sports season still has three more events to go — the 4X4 Rally, a rally tour and a special rally to conclude this year's activities.

Henman crashes out in Lyon

LYON (AFP) — British No. 2 and eighth seed Tim Henman crashed out of the $750,000 ATP Tour event here Thursday, losing 3-6, 4-6 in barely an hour to Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner.

The 23-year-old Henman, who has secured two Tour wins on the circuit this season while also reaching two finals, appeared curiously out of sorts against Goellner, six foot five and playing in his trademark back to front baseball cap.

A bemused Henman found himself up against a man on the top of his game with the big German serving superbly throughout, wrapping up the opening set with ease with a break in the sixth game before establishing a 4-2 lead in the second against his bemused opponent by breaking for 2-1.

It was only then that Henman, ranked 18 in the world and averaging more than eight aces per match on the circuit this season, finally managed his first of the evening to get back to 4-3.

But the German, ranked just 61 on the ATP computer, closed out the Wimbledon quarter-finalist again to serve out for the match at 5-4.

After going 30-0 behind, Henman pulled off a brilliant crosscourt return to claw his way back to 30-15 but then netted after scampering across for a Goellner forehand hit short.

On the resulting match point, the German suddenly betrayed a hint of nervousness as he double faulted for the third time.

But having faulted again, he then hammered a superb stooping double-fisted return down the line to kill off any hope Henman had of making a last ditch recovery against the man he beat in Basel just two weeks ago.

It was a bitter blow for Tim Henman, who made the semi-finals here last year and who had fully expected at least to repeat that showing this time round instead of failing even to reach the quarters.

Second-seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia earlier beat Dutchman Fernon Wieber 6-3, 6-4 and will now play Goellner.

Fabrice Santoro of France just edged big Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 2-6, 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4) in a thrilling encounter which had the crowd on their feet as the Frenchman retrieved an apparent lost cause.

Sixth-seeded former Wimbledon champion Krajicek raced through the first set playing brilliant tennis but came unstuck thereafter as Santoro levelled with a brilliant return down the line at full stretch.

And the Frenchman called on his last reserves of energy to reach the last eight, moving crucially to 5-4 in the final set tiebreak as he just managed to get back an overhead Krajicek effort at full stretch before wrapping it up when the exhausted Dutchman scuffed a return into the net.

Santoro will next meet Spaniard Felix Mantilla in the quarters.

In other matches, Cedric Pioline of France ended the surprise run of his compatriot Arnaud Clement, winning 6-2, 6-2 against the man who ousted top-seeded Australian Patrick Rafter in the first round.

Pioline will now face seventh-seeded Australian Mark Philippoussis, who downed American Richey Reneberg 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Fifth-seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden defeated American Todd Martin 7-5, 6-3 and will now play German prospect Tommy Haas, a 6-2, 6-3 winner against Spaniard Julian Alonso.

Henman said later: "My opponent played very well and didn't give me a chance on his service. He put me under pressure.

"I didn't serve as well as usual and I lost two of my service games on double faults. But that's not to take anything away from Goellner."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠10652 ♥K1052 ♦Void ♣Q8763

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

A - You have no interest beyond playing in five clubs, and the way to describe a weak hand with great support for partner's second suit is by bidding five clubs right now. That denies the ability to cue-bid. A raise to four clubs is actually a stronger bid. Since partner's jump shift was a game force, four clubs would invite a cue-bidding sequence.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠32 ♥AJ853 ♦AQ102 ♣AQ

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?

A - You are close to a jump to game, but you do have a six-loser hand. We prefer a game try to give partner the chance to wriggle off the hook if the raise was based more on courtesy than substance. Our choice would be three diamonds, even though we really don't need "help" in the suit. Partner may cooperate with good trumps, and that could be enough.

Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠104 ♥97632 ♦A95 ♣AQ7

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	1♥	?	

What do you bid now?

A - A tough hand. You have too much to pass, but no good bid. We would opt for one no trump as the least of evils. Your hand is balanced, you are maximum in terms of point count and have an almost sure, if slow, heart stopper.

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A6 ♥AKJ72 ♦Q1063 ♣Q5

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

A - It is inconceivable that partner made a high reverse without two aces, but it is easy to construct a hand where the king of diamonds is missing. We would bid five no trump, the Grand Slam Force, asking partner to bid seven diamonds with the ace-king.

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K6 ♥AJ76 ♦A ♣AQ8643

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A - One bridge maxim which has our whole-hearted endorsement is: When your opponent has opened in your best suit, pass to see how the auction develops. With no known source of tricks and unbalanced distribution, a one-no-trump overcall would be foolhardy, as would one heart on a poor four-card suit.

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AJ ♥85 ♦QJ103 ♣AKQJ5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?

A - What an annoying hand. No jump in a minor will do justice to your tremendous playing strength, but a jump shift to two spades could spell disaster should partner have four cards in the suit. All in all, make the undertid of three diamonds and hope for the best.

NFL preview

Broncos bid to remain unbeaten

OAKLAND, California (AFP) — The Denver Broncos will try to set a club record for the best start for a season and push the Oakland Raiders further into the cellar Sunday as the long-time National Football League antagonists meet.

Denver, 6-0, also won its first six games of the 1986 season before losing to the New York Jets. The Broncos, whose other 6-0 start in team history came in 1977, lead the American Conference West by two games over the Kansas City Chiefs.

Now coming off a bye week, Denver has scored at least 29 points in each of its last five games and has outscored opponents 190-85 thus far.

While Oakland (2-4) has the offence that can go toe-to-toe with the Broncos, whether it can stop them is a different story. The Raiders were thumped by San Diego 25-10 before the bye week and fell into last place in the AFC West.

The Raiders have allowed almost 400 yards per game on defence.

Oakland has allowed 158 points in its six games and at least 17 in every contest.

To make matters worse, the team has been distracted this week by controversy over cornerback Larry Brown's suspension for conduct detrimental to the team.

Brown, who has seen little action since being benched in the second half of the Raiders' 28-27 setback to Kansas City on September 8, claims his coaches and Raiders owner Al Davis consipired to run him off the team.

"They were trying to find something on me," Brown said Wednesday, a day after receiving the four-game suspension. "It was preplanned. They were waiting in the wings."

Coach Joe Bugel denied the charge.

"I don't operate like that as a football coach," Bugel said. "I like my players. I have a very good relationship with them. I don't have vendettas for anybody."

Brown said he and Bugel exchanged words after Brown gave up a reception in practice on Monday.

Brown said the Raiders were waiting for him to make a mistake.

"This was a tactic Al Davis made to get rid of me, and I think it was planned.

Bugel said the decision to suspend Brown, the 1996 Super Bowl Most Valuable Player for Dallas, was his.

"It was my decision," Bugel said. "I talked to him on Monday afternoon and made a decision. That was it."

Kansas City Chiefs fullback Kimble Anders is brought down by San Diego Charger Dwayne Harper after a 23-yard pickup in the first quarter in Kansas City (Reuters photo)

Just Open
Professional Beauty Salon
Esthetic Maria Coiffure Jamila Coiffeur Samir
Welcom To Our Salon
Behind Fast link Co. - Sawalmeh Center
Tel. 079 - 21787 / 079 - 20928 / 079 - 68209

Under the Patronage of H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali
Jordan Society for Development
in cooperation with
Arab German Insurance Co.Ltd. AGI
Welcome you to the Exhibition
"Murmurs of our Land"
by
Riham Ghassib & Bani Hamida
Paintings & Weavings
On Tuesday 30/9 thru Friday 31/10
at The Bani Hamida House
1st circle, off Rainbow St.
Open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fridays & official holidays from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
For more information, please call: 658696 / 7.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
For one person or a couple
200 metres from Goethe Institute,
3rd Circle, Jabal Amman, Abdul Munem
Al Rifai Street. Fully furnished 2-bedroom ground floor apartment. Satellite,
with terrace over looking a very relaxing and nice garden in Dr. George Sfeir's villa, No.16.
Annual rent.
If interested, please call 641515

Customs Unpaid Car For Sale
1993 VW Corrado, VR6 engine (2.8 L), full options, low mileage.
Tel : 857738

SUPER DELUXE PENTHOUSE FOR RENT
Second floor. Consists of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining room, kitchen, large terraces with attractive view.
Location: Abdoun, opposite to the American Embassy.
Please call Tel.: 662405

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT WITHIN A TWO STOREY VILLA
Ground floor, consisting of two bedrooms, salon, modern building & modern furniture, special garden, central heating.
location: Seventh Circle
Call tel.: 638887 - 638782

FOR RENT
Deluxe furnished apartment in Sweifiyeh. 4th floor. Nice view. Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, salon, dining family rooms, telephone.
Please call Tel.: 846627

DELUXE VILLA FOR RENT
Please Contact Mobile 079/52779

FOR RENT
Deluxe furnished ground floor of a villa at Deir Ghoubar Area. Excellent condition.
For inquiries, please contact
Tel.: 861523 - 079/40519

Puppies For Sale
3 months old American Bull Terrier
2 months old Boxers male & female
If really interested call 079/43253

Resigning PNA legislator launches call for reforms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian legislator who resigned to protest at the lack of democracy in self-rule areas went to the press Friday to condemn corruption in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and call for reform.

Haidar Abdul Shafi published an open letter to "Palestinian citizens" in the daily newspaper Al Quds to explain the reasons for his resignation so that "the people may know the truth of what is happening."

"I hope that my resignation will be a cause for reform of what has gone wrong and the beginning of a new phase in our national project," he wrote.

He called on the PNA to "put a stop to corruption, perks for officials, and monopolies, respect the rule of law and concentrate on making a democratic transformation."

Mr. Abdul Shafi, a veteran politician from Gaza and a former negotiator for the Palestinians with Israel, has rejected pressure from his colleagues and the self-rule authority to retract his resignation from the Palestinian Legislative Council, which he announced on Oct. 2.

In the open letter, he accused the PNA of "marginalising the legislative council, ignoring its decisions, and removing it from the political process."

The PNA's policy is "an open violation of the Oslo (self-rule accords)" which created the council and gave it the mandate of "creating laws and overseeing their implementation."

The PNA "has turned its back on the requirements to cooperate (with the council)," he said.

"And I am sorry to say that the president of the council has not acted in a responsible and decisive way to the authority's policy of ignoring the needs of law and constitutional principles," he said.

Since the 88-member council was elected in January 1996, it has passed numerous bills and recommendations, but Mr. Arafat has yet to sign a single one into law.

Earlier in October, the council passed a long-deliberated basic law to serve as a constitution which would define the powers of the council and Mr. Arafat's executive authority. But Mr. Arafat has not approved the law.

In July, the council also made an unprecedented call for Mr. Arafat to remove his entire self-rule cabinet because of widespread corruption in the ministries.

Almost all of the ministers then offered a mass resignation, but Mr. Arafat has until now refused to accept their resignations or bend to repeated council calls for a cabinet reshuffle.

A council committee found that corruption and abuse of position was widespread in the self-rule ministries and specifically pointed a finger at three ministers for involvement in corruption.

NO MOVIE, NO MARRIAGE: Young Chinese partners attend a video screening in a small Beijing hospital Friday. Before couples can obtain their marriage licence, the government requires them to take a physical examination, register with a hospital and watch a video screening in a bid to improve their sex education. The video, conducted by medical personnel, is designed to prepare them for a life of marriage (Reuters photo)

Netanyahu says he'll support Orthodox despite U.S. Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu affirmed Friday that he will back legislation cementing Orthodox control over religion in Israel — a move likely to anger American Jews.

Most American Jews belong either to the Reform and Conservative movements that have been seeking a foothold in Israel through court recognition of conversions carried out by their rabbis.

Earlier this week, Orthodox legislators threatened to bring down the Netanyahu government unless he pushes their legislation through parliament by the end of November. Mr. Netanyahu promised them in a meeting to back their bills, aides said at the time.

Commenting publicly on the confrontation Friday, Mr. Netanyahu said he hoped the rival streams could reach a compromise.

But if such efforts fail, he said he would back the Orthodox who dominate religious affairs in Israel. Referring to the court battles of the reform and conservative movements, Mr. Netanyahu said: "There is this attempt to change the (religious) status quo and this calls upon us to support the legislation."

Rabbi Uri Regev, the leader of the reform movement in Israel, warned of an angry backlash from American Jews. "The message that is coming from the rabbinate is that reform and conservative Judaism is not Judaism. If this is now confirmed by the Israeli legislature, this will have horrendous consequences," he said.

At issue is legislation that would encode into law a practice under which only conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis in Israel are recognised by the Israeli Interior Ministry.

The legislation would not affect reform and conservative conversions carried out in the United States and which are recognised in Israel.

The bill passed in a first reading this summer, but was then shelved as a committee headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman tried to find a compromise. Mr. Neeman reportedly proposed setting up a conversion institute with representatives from the three streams, an idea rejected by the Orthodox leadership this week.

The conversion bill is now being prepared for the required second and third readings in parliament.

Rabbi Regev said it was not certain whether the conversion bill will get a majority in the 120-member parliament. Two of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition partners — the centrist Third Way Party and Israel Be'aliya Party representing Soviet immigrants — are expected to vote against the bill or abstain. Together, the two parties have 10 seats. Mr. Netanyahu's coalition has 66 members.

Much depends on opposition leader Ehud Barak who has been careful not to alienate the religious parties whose support is crucial for winning an election in Israel.

On Friday, Mr. Barak met with Rabbi Ovadia Yousuf, the spiritual leader of the religious Shas Party. Mr. Barak was evasive Friday when asked how his party would vote on the conversion bill. "We must continue in search of a compromise," he said.

Both Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Barak will have to face American Jewish leaders in November when address the council of Jewish federations in Indianapolis. The meeting starts Nov. 14.

Libya vows not to hand over Lockerbie suspects at Hague

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Libya reiterated Friday its refusal to hand over to either Britain or the United States the two suspects wanted for trial in the Lockerbie bombing affair.

Britain and the United States demand the extradition of two Libyan suspects believed to have orchestrated the explosion aboard the Pan Am airliner which plunged into the Scottish village of Lockerbie, claiming 270 lives in 1988.

In their first address since hearings opened on Monday at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Libya's lawyers contested the accusations, originally made by a Scottish judge. The accusations were "manoeuvres calculated to intimidate," said the lawyers, adding that they constituted "a determination to destabilise Libya" and that no real proof existed to indict Libya in the bombing.

They reiterated Libya's determination to never hand over the suspects to either Scotland, where they would be tried, or to the United States, saying the huge media interest in the case would lead to an unfair trial.

"They are already presumed guilty," said Professor Jean Salmon, one of the Belgian lawyers in the delegation representing Libya at The Hague.

On Monday, Lord Hardie, Scotland's senior legal officer, had given his personal assurance that a trial conducted in Scotland "will be entirely fair," saying the suspects could "receive visits from international observers at any reasonable time."

But during Friday's address another member of Libya's delegation, Abdul El Murtadi Suleiman condemned the "arrogance and overweening dictatorial conceit of Washington and London" which he claims blocks Libya's desire to open up the investigation.

Only the Germans, he said, have decided to fully investigate whether the bomb was planted by Libyan suspects before take-off from Frankfurt, as contended by Britain and the United States.

Another theory put forward contends that the bomb could have been planted with Iranian involvement at Heathrow during a stop-over.

On a more general note, Libya's representatives at the ICJ sought to portray Libya as the defender of oppressed peoples against the superpowers.

"Since the 1970s Libya has backed many national liberation movements, some of whose leaders are now the presidents of independent countries, such as Nelson Mandela," representative Hamed Ahmad Elhouderi told the judges.

The South African president recently announced that he would be visiting Colonel Qadhafi, Libya's premier, with whom he would discuss the bombing investigation.

Spokesman for the families of the British victims, Jim Swire, said Mr. Mandela was "very interested" in the case and may discuss it with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at November's Commonwealth heads of state summit, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Swire noted that the inquiry into possible Iranian involvement had been blocked by London since Margaret Thatcher's premiership, putting the emphasis on Libyan culpability for which, he said, there was not enough evidence.

The fate of the two Libyan suspects will not be decided during these proceedings. The court is hearing the British and U.S. contention that the court here does not have jurisdiction to try the case as Libya requested.

Libya tabled a petition with the ICJ in March 1992 to rule Britain and the U.S. in violation of an international air safety convention in the 1988 Lockerbie Pan Am bombing because Libya claims the two Western powers are hindering its attempts to investigate the case.

Christopher Greenwood, international law professor and member of the British delegation, said Tripoli's petition was made "the very same day" that the U.N. secretary-general reported Libya's refusal to cooperate in the Lockerbie investigation. U.N. sanctions followed days later.

At the opening of the hearings Monday, Britain derided Libya's petition as a ploy to escape the U.N. sanctions.

Sir Franklin Berman, member of the British delegation, said "to maintain the accusation without the slightest shred of proof or even probability is nothing less than shameful."

The hearings continue until Oct. 22.

Israel worries over ties with Egypt after ambassador-bellydancer case

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli officials rushed Friday to contain damage to relations with Cairo after dismissing accusations by an Israeli bellydancer that the Egyptian ambassador tried to rape her.

"We have been on the brink of disaster," a high-level Foreign Ministry official told AFP, saying he still feared diplomatic fallout from the accusations made against Ambassador Mohammad Bassiouny.

The ministry fears that even though the accusation was dismissed, the affair could be seen as a plot by Israeli secret services against Mr. Bassiouny, said the official, who asked not to be named.

The incident is sure to be discussed when Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa makes a rare visit to Israel next Monday, ostensibly to attend the opening of a peace centre run by former Prime minister Shimon Peres.

Israeli-Egyptian ties have been strained for the past year, and the Foreign Ministry official said he feared the Bassiouny affair would affect the chances of winning the release of Azzam Azzam, an Israeli imprisoned by Egypt for espionage.

Israeli justice officials closed investigations this week into the bellydancer's accusations that Mr. Bassiouny tried to rape her on Aug. 13, saying there was no evidence to back up the charges.

Mr. Bassiouny said the charges were part of an attempt to blackmail him.

State Prosecutor Edna Arbel went on Israel Radio to underline that investigations "showed without a doubt that there was no basis for the accusations."

"By (the plaintiff's) own testimony, it was not a case of attempted rape, or even of harassment. There was no force," she said.

The ambassador "gave her presents and she met him several times," Ms. Arbel said and hinted that the bellydancer had tried to seduce the ambassador.

The Foreign Ministry's Director General Eytan Bentsur underlined that "the matter is closed. I have full confidence in this ambassador and appreciate his work."

The government, wary of a diplomatic scandal, had imposed a complete press blackout on the two months of investigations. The case "threatened to damage national interests," Ms. Arbel said.

But with the affair closed, Israeli papers ran front page headlines on the story Friday, along with collar photos of the bellydancer in costume with her face obscured.

Mr. Bassiouny told the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot: "I have never had anything to hide. I have been the victim of a blackmail attempt and I am happy that the truth has been revealed."

Mr. Bassiouny, ambassador to Israel since 1986, accused Israeli officials last month of harassing him after guards at the Egyptian border searched his car and authorities allowed a protest outside his residence.

The unnamed bellydancer, who often performed at embassy functions, claimed that the attempted rape occurred at the home of a mutual friend where Mr. Bassiouny had invited her, then turned up alone to meet her.

Police questioned Mr. Bassiouny, who did not evoke his right to diplomatic immunity, and the woman, whom they at one point threatened to accuse of blackmail.

In the end, they decided not to press charges against Mr. Bassiouny or the dancer.

Her lawyer, Ori Shtendel, accused investigators of "putting state interests before the interests of my client."

"There was no pressure from the government to bury this affair," Ms. Arbel insisted.

Iran warns of sturgeon extinction in Caspian

TEHRAN (AFP) — Sturgeon, the fish which produces caviar, is in imminent danger of extinction in the Caspian Sea because of environmental hazards and overfishing, Iran warned on Friday.

The head of a state fishing research centre, identified only by his last name Amini, said overfishing had caused sturgeon reserves to slump in the Caspian, which produces up to 90 per cent of the world's caviar.

The other threat comes from oil exploration in the closed sea by neighbouring Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, along with industrial and agricultural wastes, Amini said at a seminar of Caspian states in Gorgan, northern Iran.

Amini called for an accord between the countries bordering the sea — which also include Iran and Russia — to regulate exploitation of its resources. "Iran, realising this threat, took precautions several years ago which include fighting illegal and overfishing and improper poaching methods," he said, quoted by the official Iranian news agency, IRNA.

Amini offered Iran's help to protect the Caspian environment "while seeking to preserve the countries' legitimate interests."

Foreign tourists provide easy pickings for Yemen's tribes

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen's notoriously unruly and heavily armed tribes, who control large tracts of the country's interior, regularly kidnap foreigners to use as bargaining chips to force concessions from the government.

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world, and money has played a part in the abduction of more than 100 foreigners since 1993 and is the most likely motive behind two more kidnappings this week.

Usually the tribes see kidnapping as a short cut to forcing their way through bureaucratic red tape to get cash, jobs or other concessions from the government.

A Briton and two Yemeni companions were being held in a remote mountain hideaway on Friday after being kidnapped two days earlier near Zamar, 50 kilometres south of the capital Sanaa, a tribal official said.

A Yemeni official said the kidnappers wanted financial aid for the Bani Dabian tribe and were also demanding that the government complete electricity and water projects in the region.

The three were snatched on the same day that four elderly French tourists were picked up by armed tribesman in the north of the country, but their captivity lasted just 24 hours before they were released safe and sound.

Groups of tourists or foreign workers trundling through the lawless interior of Yemen, often to visit archaeological sites, are easy pickings for the tribesmen.

Catastrophic floods in the eastern Maarib region in 1996 triggered a spate of kidnappings as tribes sought to wrest compensation out of the government.

A French diplomat was held for 10 days in October of that year by the Jihm tribe demanding compensation for houses destroyed by the floods and civil servant jobs for their members. Three months later, five Polish tourists were snatched by the Beni Jabr tribe, which also wanted flood compensation, as did another tribe which held four Germans hostage in March.

Sometimes the reasons behind a kidnapping can be more idiosyncratic.

Tribesmen who held an Italian tourist for five days in August said they wanted the government to return a car confiscated several years ago because their papers were not in order.

The head of the tribe also wanted to make a protest because his son failed end-of-year examinations in a state school. Chinese experts fell victim to the kidnappers in early 1994 by a tribe wanting to halt construction of a new road, while other tribesmen snatched three French tourists in January 1994, this time to demand a new road be built.

In March this year, seven Germans were held hostage in the eastern region of Hadramut by a tribe demanding $7 million owed to them by a crooked car salesman who bought vehicles from them without paying.

And sometimes a vicious circle develops. Last year a tribe kidnapped 17 French tourists to demand the release of one of its members imprisoned for abducting an American.

As well as tourists, employees of foreign companies are favourite targets of the kidnappers.

In 1993, six employees of companies dealing with Total Yemen were held by a tribe which only released them when the oil company agreed to take on 80 of its members.

In August a tribesman shot and wounded an Italian tourist in a botched kidnap attempt, but the violence was exceptional and all hostages that have been abducted have been released unharmed.

Many have continued their holidays in Yemen after their release, and have recounted tales of astonishing hospitality from their kidnappers who slaughter sheep for them and ply them with whisky.

However, the Yemeni authorities take a dimmer view, accusing the kidnappers of being urged on by "foreign powers" to destabilise the country and to scare away vital tourism hard currency.

In a bid to deter bad publicity, the government has tried to restrict the movement of foreigners and tourists inside the country, but so far without much success.

British woman reunited with kids after ban on nude bathing

LONDON (AFP) — The appeal court here Friday overruled a judge who ordered a mother separated from her two children after she took a bath with them and her boyfriend, prompting a complaint from her estranged husband. Declaring that the judge was "plainly wrong" to take the nine-year-old daughter and six-year-old son away from their mother, the appeal court said: "In a happy well-run family how members behave in the privacy of their own home is their business and no one else's." The mother said the original court ruling in June "frightened me to death." The bath, she explained, "was just popping in together for five minutes on a Sunday morning. It was all so innocent and it became so misconstrued."

Al Pacino leaves his mark in cement

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Al Pacino is the latest actor to leave his hand and footprints in a cement square at Hollywood's Chinese Theatre, a tradition that began 71 years ago. Cheering on the kneeling 57-year-old star of "The Godfather" and "Scarface" on Thursday were his father Sal Pacino and fellow actor Keanu Reeves. The ceremony was held when Pacino and Reeves came out of the movie theatre where they attended the opening of their latest flick, "The Devil's Advocate," in which Reeves works for a rich and powerful lawyer, Pacino, who turns out to be the devil incarnate.

Estefan accused of betrayal

MIAMI (AFP) — Hardline foes of Cuban President Fidel Castro are accusing U.S. singer Gloria Estefan — a favourite daughter of the Cuban-American community — of betraying them in her quest to defend freedom of speech. The singer, who was born in Cuba and exiled to the U.S. after the revolution in 1959, triggered a fierce debate when she sided with Peggi McKinley, a Miami city worker sacked for publicly condemning a local ban on performances by Cuban artists. In a letter to the Miami Herald, Estefan said she "cannot imagine how we could explain to the people of Cuba, who have suffered so much oppression, that the very freedoms that they desperately desire and deserve are being annihilated in their name."

Callers seeking travel information get sex talk instead

PHOENIX — Telephone callers in southern Arizona seeking information on driving in Mexico are being greeted these days by a throaty-voiced woman asking: "What is it about a man that gets me so turned on?" Whoops. The phone book for the region has a wrong number listed in 575,000 books. "It's a very unfortunate situation," said Jon Lentz, a spokesman for U.S. West Dex Yellow pages in Denver. "We take pride in our directories and one mistake is one too much."

Mailman finds puppy in mailbox

DETROIT — A motor city mailman got an unexpected delivery when he found a shivering, emaciated 6-week-old puppy abandoned in a downtown mailbox. The Michigan Humane Society said the postal worker extracted the whimpering black and tan terrier-mix puppy and brought it to their shelter, where it was treated for shock. The group said the dog had probably been inside the box in Detroit for several hours.